## Duration of the Session.

Sri H. K. VEERANNA GOWDH (Maddur).—Sir, can we have an idea of the date on which the session would be closed?

Sri K. HANUMANTHAIYA (Chief Minister).—As the programme now provides, we shall close it on the 23rd.

## Discussion on the Report of the Committee constituted to review the working of the Agreement between Kolar Gold Mining Companies and Government. (*Continued*).

Sri Mulka GOVINDA REDDY (Chitaldrug).—Sir, the Committee appointed to go into the question of the working of the agreement of 1949 between the Government and the Kolar Gold Fields Mining Companies and allied matters, has given us a very valuable and informative report. Sir, the Members that were appointed to serve on this Committee have undoubtedly bestowed a good deal of study and thought to this problem and they have viewed this problem dispassionately and I am sure they were guided by the supreme interest of the welfare and well-being of the people of Mysore as well as the people of India, because this particular measure concerns not only the Government of Mysore but also the Government of India. Sir, the Hon'ble Home Minister who made an exhaustive speech on this Report gave us a good deal of information regarding the history of this gold-mining industry and also the history of the plunder and loot carried on by these companies.

Sri K. HANUMANTHAIYA (Chief Minister).—May I suggest that these words can be avoided? 'Plunder and loot' are not the words that can be used in this connection.

Sri Mulka GOVINDA REDDY.—I shall put it as unbridled exploitation. Sir, these Companies have been closely following in the foot steps of the East India Company. If you refer to the history, from the beginning and the inception of the East India Company, the British vested interests have carried on their avocation of exploiting the people of India. They have done it in other places also. They have exploited and are exploiting the people of Asia and the people of Africa. Sir, these business interests first came into India and after holding the economic power in their hands, they conquered India. Even after the British power left India, the economic imperialism that has got the strangle hold on the economy of India is still there. Even after 1947 when the British left the shores of India, they are still trying to rule over the destinies of the people of India through the economic power that they are holding.

Sir, before the War, India owed a debt to the British Government in the order of about 350 crores of pounds. But all that was wiped out during the War and India had a balance of 1,500 crores of rupees.

Mr. SPEAKER.—All that is not necessary.

Sri Mulka GOVINDA REDDY.—That is old story and it is an interesting story, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER.—You have made a passing reference. That is enough.

Sri Mulka GOVINDA REDDY.—I do not take much time of the House. I will only give certain important and interesting items. Foreign capital invested in India is about Rs. 320·42 crores. Out of this 320·42 crores, about 230 crores of rupees belong to the British.

Mr. SPEAKER.—Even if it is true and interesting to quote such figures, they are not relevant to the present discussion.

A MEMBER.—Suggest a solution.

Sri Mulka GOVINDA REDDY.—I am going to suggest a solution, Sir. The entire economy of India is in the hands of British Capital even today. It is in the grip of British Capital. The export and import trade is almost entirely managed by the British Capital. The exchange banks in India who have got their head offices in London are managing the trade. The shipping industry is in their hands. What I am driving at is that the British Capital has got a hold on the

Indian economy so much so that the Indian economy is crippled and it is in a crisis.

ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು.—ಇದೆಲ್ಲಾ ನಿಜವಾಗಿದ್ದರೂ ಕೂಡ ಕೆಲವು ಸಂದರ್ಭಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಇದನ್ನು ಹೇಳುವುದನ್ನು ಬಿಟ್ಟು ಬಿಟ್ಟರೆ ಅನುಕೂಲವೆಂದು ಕಾಣುತ್ತದೆ.

ಶ್ರೀ ಮುಲ್ಕ ಗೋವಿಂದರೆಡ್ಡಿ.—ನನ್ನ ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯ ವೇನೆಂದರೆ, ಈ ರೀತಿ ನಮ್ಮ ಎಕಾನಮಿ ಬಹಳ ಕೆಟ್ಟಿದೆ. ಹಿಂದಿನ ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮತ್ತು ಹಿಂದಿನ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ನಾವು ನಮ್ಮ ಎಕಾನಮಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಪಡಿಸು ವುದಕ್ಕಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಬ್ರಿಟಿಷ್ ಕ್ಯಾಪಿಟಲ್ ನಮ್ಮ ಮೇಲೇನಿದೆಯೋ ಅದನ್ನು ತೆಗೆದುಹಾಕುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಏರ್ಪಾಡು ಮಾಡಬೇಕೆಂಬ ಉದ್ದೇಶದಿಂದ ನಾನು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದೇನೆ.

Even in the mining industry, British Capital invested is about 22·57 crores. Sir, every year even today, the amount that goes out of India as profits, as commission, as interest on British Capital is about 160 crores according to the estimate of Sir M. Visvesvaraya and Prof. K. T. Shah and Sri Khambatta have said it is 230 crores every year.

Mr. SPEAKER.—You want to make out that we want capital and not exploitation. The Hon'ble Member has also got the responsibility not to rub on the wrong side.

Sri Mulka GOVINDA REDDY.—It is not necessary that we should entirely depend upon British capital. We are seeing that British capital is now giving way to American penetration. We have already seen the effects of exploitation by British capital. We must be very careful when we invite foreign capital.

Sir, taking the history of the gold mining industry in the Mysore State from 1880 onwards, when these people were given lease, they have commenced gold mining and within four or five years of the commencement of gold mining, they have begun to declare dividends. The Hon'ble the Home Minister has said that these three companies that are working today, the Mysore Gold Mining Co., Ltd., the Champion Reef Gold Mining Co., Ltd., and the Nandidroog Gold Mining Co., Ltd., have declared dividends in many years 120 per cent, 150 per cent and if you calculate the dividends that they have declared, the capital has been paid back in the case of Mysore Mining Company about 22 times, and in the case of Nandidroog Mines about 18 times and in the case of Champion Reefs, about 21 times.

9-30 A.M.

This clearly shows that these Sterling Companies and the Rupee Companies after conversion as such in 1950, have received by way of dividend 20 times what they have invested and apart from what they have received by way of dividend, there are other ways of making money. They have placed orders for machinery and other materials required for this industry through their own concerns and I understand even in this they are able to make more money though it is not shown here. Again, the personnel that they have employed in this industry have been paid from the inception huge salaries and if we account the salaries drawn by the Managing Directors, they have drawn in some cases 10 to 20 per cent of the total expenditure. If we take all this into consideration, these Companies have received more than 40 to 50 times the capital that was invested by them in these concerns. Three or four stages that we have to take into consideration were pressed or were impressed by some of the members who spoke yesterday. In 1949 when this Gold Duty Act was repealed, the State of Mysore suffered a great setback because the income that the Government was deriving from this gold mining concern was almost depleted. The Minister has pointed out that in 1952 we received zero amount and in 1953, ·31 lakh of rupees. It is really interesting and also imperative for the Government to examine why the Gold Duty Act was repealed and replaced by an Agreement, why the interests of the State were allowed to suffer and why the Gold Mining Companies had an upperhand in coming to an agreement with the Government. Though it may be past history, in these democratic days we should certainly go into these matters and examine and fix the responsibility for such huge losses. It shows that the concerned people during that period were grossly negligent and they have sacrificed and betrayed the interests of the State and the people, and

(SRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY.)

it will be imperative on the incumbents who come hereafter that during their dealings when they hold the high office of ministership they should be more and more careful, should always guard the interests of the people and the State and at no time they should be influenced by extraneous circumstances or by people. It is very interesting to note that in 1945 when this gold relief was given under an amendment to the Act, the Minister who piloted was one Sri Srinivasan and to-day he happens to be the Chairman of this Company drawing a huge salary of Rs. 11,000 per month. (*A Voice*: *Rs. 11,000* ?) I understand he is drawing Rs. 11,000 a month in addition to the other allowances that he is drawing, but unfortunately the Companies won't disclose the salaries that are paid to these people—the Chairman and others. In addition to the dividends and other amounts that these Companies have carried to England, the United Kingdom has also secured some income and that is substantially by way of taxes. 'Paid to United Kingdom taxes. . .Rs. 141.65 lakhs:' that is, regarding the Champion Reef Gold Mining Company. The Mysore Gold Mining Company has paid as income-tax to the United Kingdom Government of about Rs. 273.84 lakhs. So also the Nandidroog Company has paid by way of taxes to the United Kingdom Rs. 139.49 lakhs. Again, the Oorgaum Gold Mining Company has also paid to the United Kingdom Government Rs. 133·75 lakhs all of which will total to about 7 to 8 crores of rupees. The total capital that is invested in the Rupee Companies is about Rs. 175,00,000 and they have drawn about Rs. 80 crores. These share-holders, the persons who were concerned in the management of the concerns and the high paid officers who were working in these concerns have drawn about Rs. 80 crores in addition to Rs. 8 crores earned by the United Kingdom.

Mr. SPEAKER.—Rs. 80 crores as pay ?

Sri Mulka GOVINDA REDDY.—As dividend, pay, etc., etc. This clearly shows that the share-holders of these Companies, that is the British capital has earned about 50 to 60 times the investment and it is a clear justification for us to ask these concerns to quit Mysore with bag and baggage and the baggage should not contain any money except their attache cases. I have no hesitation in asking Government to pay no compensation to these concerns who have bled us white . . .

Sri R. ANANTARAMAN (Chamarajapet).—Is it not against the spirit of the Constitution ?

Sri Mulka GOVINDA REDDY.—The Constitution should not be misused. The Constitution is there to pay compensation to those people who are small property holders, but we should not pay compensation to those people who have exploited us to the maximum and it is all unearned. Such naked exploitation should not be encouraged. It is morally wrong, it is ethically wrong, it is politically wrong, it is economically wrong to pay any compensation to those people who have drained the resources not only of Mysore but the resources of the Indian sub-continent and also the resources of Asia and Africa. The Committee has submitted a very valuable report and they have made certain recommendations ; but these recommendations, I feel, are halting and half-hearted. Though the Minister while placing the Report before this Assembly hinted at nationalisation of this industry, the Committee has not made any such recommendation. The Committee has made a recommendation to enhance the royalty from 5 per cent to 10 per cent and nothing more. What I want the Government to do is to take over the entire concern and pay no compensation and run the industry. It is possible that we may lack technical personnel. Given the desire and zeal that we could work these mines, it is possible to train up our young men and there are already people who are trained in those mines. If we don't get technical personnel, if we have no political compulsions or political untouchability, it is possible to get technical personnel from the neighbouring countries who are prepared to give such technical aid and help

us to rehabilitate the industry. Sir, after New China came into its own in 1949, I understand, an Engineering College in Peking where there are 10,000 students is being managed by a lady worker. She had no training before that but today I understand she is an expert in Engineering and this was revealed to me by one of the Members of the Delegation that went to China recently and returned. The average Indian is in no way inferior in intelligence to any Britisher. In fact, the average Indian is more intelligent than a Britisher. The Minister was telling us yesterday that 350 persons were being trained in Germany which is well known for technical know-how and also for efficient technical knowledge. When our young men are trained in advanced countries, it is possible that we can utilise the services of those people and work these industries. Sir, if they feel that they have not got the necessary trained technical personnel, I would rather like that industry to be closed so that the exploitation, plunder and loot are stopped. I therefore hope that the Government would take courage into their hands and tell these people to quit.

Regarding Indianisation, the Mining Companies have not taken any interest and they have not evinced any zeal in adhering to the clauses that were included in the 1949 agreement. A friend of mine was telling what little Indianisation they have done; the appointments refer to a particular gentleman and some of his relations. or some of his kith and kin, and Sir, these British concerns have got a knack of hoodwinking and duping the people. Many of these concerns which were registered in London have changed over to register their companies in India. They call themselves John Taylor & Son (India) Ltd., and in this way the gullible public would be misled and duped and made to think that this is an Indian concern which is registered in India and Sri M. A. Srinivasan is the Chairman of the concern and so on. They have exploited some of the Indians and these Indians have played into their hands as Mir Sadak played into the hands of the British people. But let us not mistake by the mere name, by the mere fact, that some of our own people are there either as Chairman or as Managing Director or as shareholders. The Minister was telling us yesterday that the Companies refused to give the information whether any Indians held any shares. But in another statement they have been reported to have said that some people who were registered on the Dominion Register are members, are shareholders of these concerns. Those that are found on the Dominion Register may belong to the same race; they may be hailing from Australia, or New Zealand, or South Africa. If there are any Indians who are shareholders in this concern, I understand the Companies have brought over half a dozen people who were employees in these concerns. They have not paid any amount towards the shares. The little number of shares that are held by these half a dozen Indians are paid from the amounts that they have received as salaries.

Sri P. R. RAMAIYA (Basavangudi).—We need not go into the history of the whole thing. We may only suggest what to do at present. It would save the time of the House and it would also give more opportunities to others.

Sri Mulka GOVINDA REDDY.—Sometimes, it is necessary to go into the history of exploitation of Indian people by these foreign concerns.

Sri H. M. CHANNABASAPPA (Periyapatna).—How is it going to help us ?

Mr. SPEAKER.—You need not answer all the points raised by Members.

Sri Mulka GOVINDA REDDY.—The Committee that was appointed to go into the closure of Oorgaum Mines have stated that the plea put forth by the Mining Companies that the mine had to be closed down because of the Gold Duty Act, was not correct. They have stated categorically and unequivocally that it is not a correct statement. It is always the case with these concerns to hold out a threat and make some excuse or other to exploit the people. Even in 1940 when the Gold Duty Act came

(SRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY)

into force, they held out a threat that if that Act came into force, these mining concerns would have to close down. So, this practice of holding out a threat to the Government is always there and we should not yield to these threats. On the other hand, we should accept the challenge and we should show our mettle to these exploiters.

ಶ್ರೀ ಎಚ್. ಸಿ. ನಾಗಯ್ಯರೆಡ್ಡಿ (ಗೌರಿಬಿದನೂರು).—ಸ್ವಾಮಿ, ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಮಾತನಾಡಿರತಕ್ಕಂಥ ಸದಸ್ಯರುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲವರು ನಾನಾ ಪುಸ್ತಕಗಳಲ್ಲಿರುವ ವಿಚಾರಗಳನ್ನೆಲ್ಲಾ ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು. ಅವರು ಓದಿರುವ ಹಾಗೆ ನಾನೂ ಕೂಡ ಅನೇಕ ಪುಸ್ತಕಗಳನ್ನು ಓದಿದ್ದೇನೆ. ನಮ್ಮ ಮಿನಿಸ್ಟರೂ ಕೂಡ ಈ ವಿಚಾರವಾಗಿ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಮಾತನಾಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಅವರು ಹೇಳಿದ್ದನ್ನೂ ನಾನು ತಿಳಿದುಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದೇನೆ. ಇತರರು ಹೇಳಿದ್ದನ್ನೂ ತಿಳಿದುಕೊಂಡೆ. ಆದರೆ ಇದು ಈಗ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಮುಗಿದುಹೋಗಿರತಕ್ಕ ವಿಚಾರ. ಈಗ ನಮಗೆ ಉಳಿದಿರತಕ್ಕದ್ದು ಇನ್ನು ಮುಂದಕ್ಕೆ ನಾವೇನು ಮಾಡಬೇಕು ಎನ್ನುವುದು ಮಾತ್ರ. ಆದುದರಿಂದ ನಾವೀಗ ಮುಂದೇನು ಮಾಡಬೇಕು, ಯಾವ ವಿಧಾನವನ್ನು ಅನುಸರಿಸಬೇಕು, ಇದರಿಂದ ನಮ್ಮ ಸ್ಟೇಟಿಗೆ ಬರತಕ್ಕಂಥ ಆದಾಯವನ್ನು ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ನಾವೇನು ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು ಎಂಬೀ ಅಂಶಗಳೇನಿರುತ್ತವೆಯೋ ಅವನ್ನು ಪರಿಶೀಲನೆ ಮಾಡದೆ, ಈ ಶಿವಪುರಾಣವನ್ನೆಲ್ಲಾ ಹೇಳುತ್ತಾ ಹೋಗುವುದು ಅನಾವಶ್ಯಕ. 1949ಕ್ಕೆ ಹಿಂದೆ ಈ ಚಿನ್ನದ ಧಾರಣೆ ಜಾಸ್ತಿಯಾಗಿರಬಹುದು. ಈಚೆಗೆ ಅದು ಕಡಮೆಯೂ ಆಗಿರಬಹುದು. ಇದು ಕೇವಲ ಒಂದು ವ್ಯಾಪಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟಂಥ ವಿಚಾರ. ಕೆಲವುವೇಳೆ ಧಾರಣೆ ಜಾಸ್ತಿ ಆದರೂ ಆಗಬಹುದು, ಕಡಮೆ ಆದರೂ ಆಗಬಹುದು. ಈ ವಿಚಾರವನ್ನು ಯಾರು ಹೇಳಲಾರರು! ಇಂಥ ವಿಚಾರವನ್ನು ಯಾರು ಬೇಕಾದರೂ ಹೇಳಬಹುದು; ಎಷ್ಟು ಬೇಕಾದರೂ ಹೇಳಬಹುದು.

ಈ ಗೋಲ್ಡ್ ಡ್ಯೂಟಿ ಆಕ್ಟ್ ಎನ್ನುವುದು 1940ನೇ ಮಾರ್ಚಿ 22ರಲ್ಲಿ ಜಾರಿಗೆ ಬಂತು. ಈ ಆಕ್ಟಿನ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಆ ಭಂಗಾರದ ಗಣಿಯವರು ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಾಡತಕ್ಕಂಥ ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಂದು ಔನ್ಸ್ ಚಿನ್ನದಮೇಲೆ 100 ರೂಪಾಯಿಗಳನ್ನು ಬಿಟ್ಟು ಮೇಲೆ ಬರತಕ್ಕಂಥ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ನಫೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಶೇಕಡ 75ರಷ್ಟನ್ನು ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಕೊಡಬೇಕೆಂದು ವಿಧಾಯಕಮಾಡಿದರು. ಇದರಂತೆ ಕೆಲವು ದಿವಸಗಳ ತನಕ ನಡೆಯಿತು. ಆಗ ಪುನಃ ಆ ಗಣಿಯವರು ಗಲಾಟೆ ಮಾಡಲು ಪ್ರಾರಂಭಿಸಿದರು. "ನಮಗೆ ಬಹಳ ಲುಕ್ಸಾನಾಗುತ್ತದೆ, ನೀವು ಸಾಕಷ್ಟು ಕಾಂಪನ್ಸೇಷನ್ ಕೊಡದಿದ್ದರೆ ಗಣಿಗಳನ್ನು ಮುಚ್ಚಿಬಿಡಬೇಕಾಗುತ್ತದೆ" ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿದರು. ಆಗ ಸರ್ಕಾರದವರು ಕಂಪನಿಯವರಿಗೆ 15 ಲಕ್ಷ ರೂಪಾಯಿಗಳ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಕೊಟ್ಟರು. ಹೀಗೆ ಕೊಟ್ಟ ಪರಿಹಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಅನುಗುಣವಾಗಿ 1945ರಲ್ಲಿ ಆ ಗೋಲ್ಡ್ ಡ್ಯೂಟಿ ಆಕ್ಟನ್ನು ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಮಾಡಿ ಬದಲಾಯಿಸಿದರು. ಹೀಗೆ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದರಿಂದ ಬರುತ್ತಿದ್ದಂಥ ಗೋಲ್ಡ್ ಡ್ಯೂಟಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಶೇಕಡ 50ರಷ್ಟು ಆದಾಯ ತಪ್ಪಿಹೋಯಿತು, ಕೊಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಂಥ ರಾಯಲ್ಟಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಶೇಕಡ 50ರಷ್ಟನ್ನು ವಜಾ ಮಾಡಬೇಕಾಯಿತು, ಅವರಿಂದ ಬರಬೇಕಾಗಿದ್ದಂಥ ಇನ್‌ಕಂಟ್ಯಾಕ್ಸಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಶೇಕಡ 50ರಷ್ಟನ್ನು ಬಿಟ್ಟು ಉಳಿದಿದ್ದನ್ನು ವಸೂಲ್ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕೆಂದು ವಿಧಾಯಕವಾಯಿತು. ಇಷ್ಟನ್ನೆಲ್ಲಾ ಹಿಂದೆ ಆಗ ಇದ್ದಂಥ ಸರ್ಕಾರದವರೇ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದರು. ಆದರೆ ಅಲ್ಲಿಂದೀಚೆಗೆ ದಿನದಿನಕ್ಕೂ ಭಂಗಾರದ ಬೆಲೆ ಏರುತ್ತಲೇ ಬಂತು. ಹೀಗೆ ಬೆಲೆ ಏರುತ್ತಿದ್ದರೂ ಏತಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಹೀಗೆ ಮಾಡಿದರು ಎಂದು ಕೇಳಿದರೆ: ಅವರು 'ಕೇವಲ ರಿಚ್ ಓರುಗಳನ್ನೇ ಮೈನ್ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಾ ಹೋದರೆ ಈ ಗಣಿ ಬಹಳಕಾಲ ಉಳಿಯುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಅವರು ಈ ಅವರೇಜ್ ಓರು ಇತ್ಯಾದಿಯನ್ನೆಲ್ಲಾ ಮೈನಿಂಗ್ ಮಾಡಬೇಕೆಂದು ಹೇಳಿ ಈ ರೀತಿ ಒಂದು ರಿಲೀಫನ್ನು ಕೊಟ್ಟಿದ್ದೇವೆಂದು ಹೇಳಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಅವರು ಈ ಲೋಗ್ರೇಡ್ ಓರನ್ನು ತೆಗೆಯುತ್ತಾ ಬಂದುದರಿಂದ ಅವರಿಗೆ ಕ್ಯಾಪಿಟಲ್ ನಲ್ಲೇ ಶೇಕಡ ಎರಡರಷ್ಟು ಕಡಮೆ ಬಿದ್ದುದರಿಂದ ಬೋನಸ್ ಕೊಡುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಮಾರ್ಗವಿಲ್ಲ, ಸರ್ಕಾರದವರು ಏನಾದರೂ ರಿಲೀಫನ್ನು ಕೊಟ್ಟೇ ತೀರಬೇಕೆಂದು ಕೇಳಿದ್ದಕ್ಕೆ, ಆಗಿದ್ದ ಸರ್ಕಾರದವರು ಆ ರೀತಿ ಮಾಡಿದರು. 1949ರಲ್ಲಿ ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಅನುಗುಣವಾಗಿ ಬೇರೆ ಒಂದು ಅಗ್ರಿಮೆಂಟನ್ನು ಸರ್ಕಾರದವರು ಆ ಕಂಪೆನಿಯವರೊಂದಿಗೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡರು. ಇಷ್ಟಕ್ಕೋಸ್ಕರವಾಗಿಯೇ ಶ್ರೀ ಪಟ್ಟಾಭಿರಾಮನ್‌ರವರು ಈ 1949ನೆಯ ವರ್ಷವನ್ನು ಒಂದು 'ಫೇಟಲ್ ಇಯರ್' ಎಂದು ಕರೆದಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಆ ಹಿಂದಿನಿಂದಲೂ ಬಂದಿದ್ದಂಥ ಮೂಲಾಧಾರಗಳ ಮೇಲೆ ಹೊಸದಾಗಿ ಈ ಹಿಂದೆ ಇದ್ದ ಸರ್ಕಾರವೂ ಮತ್ತು ಆ ಕಂಪೆನಿಯವರೂ ಒಂದು ಹೊಸ ಒಪ್ಪಂದಕ್ಕೆ ಬಂದರು. ಇದನ್ನು ಆ ಕಂಪೆನಿಯವರ ನಂಬಿಕೆ ಮೇಲೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕಾಗಿ ಬಂತು.

ಶ್ರೀ ಮುಲ್ಕ ಗೋವಿಂದರೆಡ್ಡಿ.—ಅವರನ್ನು ಹೇಗೆ ನಂಬಿದರು!

ಶ್ರೀ ಎಚ್. ಸಿ. ನಾಗಯ್ಯರೆಡ್ಡಿ.—ಏನಪ್ಪಾ!

ಶ್ರೀ ಮುಲ್ಕ ಗೋವಿಂದರೆಡ್ಡಿ.—ಹಾಗೆ ಅವರನ್ನು ನಂಬಲು ಕಾರಣವೇನು!

ಶ್ರೀ ಎಚ್. ಸಿ. ನಾಗಯ್ಯರೆಡ್ಡಿ.—ನಿಮ್ಮ ಹಾಗೆ ಅವರೂ ಜಂಟಲ್‌ಮನ್ ಆಗಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ ಎಂದು ನಂಬಿದರು! ಆ ಗೋಲ್ಡ್ ಡ್ಯೂಟಿ ಆಕ್ಟನ್ನೇ ಜಾರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ತಂದಿದ್ದರೆ ಈ ದಿವಸ ನಮ್ಮ ಸ್ಟೇಟಿನ ಇನ್‌ಕಂ ಇಷ್ಟರಮಟ್ಟಿಗೆ ಖೋತಾ ಆಗಲು ಅವಕಾಶವಿರುತ್ತಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂತಲೂ ಇದರಿಂದ ಹಿಂದಿದ್ದ ಸರ್ಕಾರದವರು ಇದನ್ನು ಸರಿಯಾಗಿ ಪರಿಪಾಲಿಸಲಿಲ್ಲವೆಂದೂ ಶ್ರೀ ಕೆ. ಪಟ್ಟಾಭಿರಾಮನ್‌ರವರು ಹೇಳಿದರು. ಇದೆಲ್ಲವೂ ಹಿಂದೆ ನಡೆದಿರತಕ್ಕಂಥ ವಿಷಯ. ಆದರೆ ಅವರು ಮಾತನಾಡಿದ್ದನ್ನು ನೋಡಿದರೆ, ಈ ಗೋಲ್ಡ್ ಡ್ಯೂಟಿ ಆಕ್ಟಿಗೂ ಮತ್ತು ಇತ್ತೀಚೆಗೆ ಆಗಿರುವಂಥ ಆ ಒಂದು ಒಪ್ಪಂದಕ್ಕೂ ಬ್ರಹ್ಮಾಸ್ತ್ರಕ್ಕೂ ಮತ್ತು ಬ್ರಹ್ಮದಂಡಕ್ಕೂ ಎಷ್ಟು ಅಜಗಜಾಂತರ ವ್ಯತ್ಯಾಸವಿದೆಯೋ ಅಷ್ಟು ವ್ಯತ್ಯಾಸ ಇವೆರಡಕ್ಕೂ ಆಗಬಹುದು ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿದಂತೆ ಭಾಸವಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಹೀಗೇನೆ ಯಾವಾಗ್ಲೂ ಈ ಲಾಯರುಗಳ ದೃಷ್ಟಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವ ವಿಚಾರ ಬಂದರೂ ಅವರಿಗೆ ಕಾಣಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು 'ಡಿಫೆಂಡೆಂಟ್ಸ್ ಅಥವಾ ಪ್ಲೈಂಟಿಫ್ಸ್' ಇಲ್ಲವೇ 'ಅಪಲೆಂಟ್ಸ್ ಅಥವಾ ರೆಸ್‌ಪಾಂಡೆಂಟ್ಸ್' ಹೀಗೆ ಅವರ ಕಣ್ಣಿಗೆ ಕಾಣಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಈ ವಿಚಾರವನ್ನು ಅವರು ಕೇವಲ ಒಂದು ವಕೀಲಿ ದೃಷ್ಟಿಯನ್ನಿಟ್ಟು ಮಾತನಾಡಿರುವಂತೆ ತೋರುತ್ತದೆ. ನಮ್ಮ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಈ ಗಣಿಗಳ ಮೇಲೆ ಒಂದು ಸಾವಿರಿನಿಟಿ ಅಧಿಕಾರವನ್ನು ಇಟ್ಟುಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದರೂ, ಇದನ್ನು ಆ ಒಂದು ವ್ಯಾಪಾರ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯವರ

ಸರಿಮಟ್ಟಕ್ಕೆ ಇಳಿಸಿಬಿಟ್ಟಿದ್ದಾರೆಂದು ಹೇಳಿದರು. ಹೀಗೆ, ಸರ್ಕಾರದವರೇ ಏಕೆ, ನನ್ನಂಥವನಿಗೆ ಐದು ನಿಮಿಷ ಅವಕಾಶ ಸಿಕ್ಕಿದರೆ ನಾನೇ ಅದನ್ನೆಲ್ಲಾ ಆವರಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಪ್ರಯತ್ನಪಡುತ್ತೇನೆ. ಹೀಗಿರುವಾಗ ಅದನ್ನು ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಮುನ್ನಿಗ್ಗಿ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದರಲ್ಲಿ ಏನು ಆಶ್ಚರ್ಯ ? ಈಗ ಇವುಗಳೆಲ್ಲಾ ಹಿಂದೆ ಆಗಿಹೋದಂಥ ವಿಚಾರಗಳು. ಆದರೆ ನಮಗೀಗ ಬೇಕಾಗಿರುವುದು ಮುಂದೆ ಏನು ಮಾಡಬೇಕು ಎಂಬುದು. ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ನಾನು ನನ್ನ ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯವನ್ನೀಗ ಹೇಳುತ್ತೇನೆ. ಈಗ ನಮ್ಮ ಸರ್ಕಾರದವರಿಗೆ ಡಬ್ಬಲ್ ಗೋಲ್ಡ್ ಡ್ಯೂಟಿ ಹಾಕಬೇಕೆಂಬ ಮನಸ್ಸಿದ್ದರೆ ಹಾಕಲಿ. ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ನಾನೂ ಒಪ್ಪುತ್ತೇನೆ. ಆದರೆ ಹೀಗೆ ನಾವು ಡಬ್ಬಲ್ ಡ್ಯೂಟಿ ಹಾಕಿದರೆ ಅವರು ಆದಷ್ಟು ಬೇಗ ರಿಚ್ ಓರನ್ನೆಲ್ಲಾ ಪೂರೈಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಕೊನೆಗೆ ನಮಗೆ ಕಲ್ಲು ಬಂಡೆಗಳನ್ನೆಲ್ಲಾ ಬಿಟ್ಟು ಹೊರಟು ಹೋಗುವುದು ಖಂಡಿತ. ಅಥವಾ ತಾವು ಅಂಥ ಧೈರ್ಯಮಾಡಿ ಅವರನ್ನು ಬಿಡಿಸಿಬಿಡುವ ಹಾಗಿದ್ದರೆ ಬಿಡಿಸಿ ಅದನ್ನು ಇಂಡಿಯನೈಜ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ಅದನ್ನು ಆಕ್ರಮ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಿ. ಅಥವಾ ನಮ್ಮ ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಯಾವ ರೀತಿ ಮಾಡಿದರೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಆದಾಯ ಬರುತ್ತದೋ ಆ ರೀತಿಯಾಗಿ ಅವರೊಡನೆ ಮತ್ತೊಂದು ಒಪ್ಪಂದ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಹಾಗಿದ್ದರೆ ನಾವು ಅದಕ್ಕೂ ಒಪ್ಪುತ್ತೇವೆ.

ಈಗ ನಮ್ಮ ಇಂಡಿಯಾ ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಸ್ವಲ್ಪ ತೊಂದರೆ ಇದೆ. ಅವರು ಈ ವಿಷಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಂಡರೆ ಖಂಡಿತವಾಗಿಯೂ ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ಪ್ರತ್ಯುತ್ತರ ಹೇಳಲಾರೆ. ನಾನು ಮೊನ್ನೆ ಭಂಗಾರದ ಗಣಿಗೆ ಹೋಗಿದ್ದೆ. ಅಲ್ಲಿಯ ವಿಷಯಗಳನ್ನು practical ಆಗಿ, ಕೂಲಂಕಷವಾಗಿ ತಿಳಿದುಕೊಂಡ ಬಂದಿದ್ದೇನೆ. ಅವರು ಈ covenant officersಗೆ ಐದು ಲಕ್ಷ, 15 ಲಕ್ಷ ಹೀಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಕೊಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. Gold Duty ತೆಗೆದಮೇಲೆ ಖರ್ಚು ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಮಾಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ನಾನು ಯಾತಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಳಗಳನ್ನು ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಮಾಡಿದ್ದೀರಿ, ಖರ್ಚು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾದಷ್ಟು ಕಡಿಮೆ ಇರಬೇಕಲ್ಲವೆ ಎಂದು ಕೇಳಿದೆ. ಆಗ ಅವರು ನನ್ನನ್ನು 11,000 ಅಡಿ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಗಣಿಯೊಳಕ್ಕೆ ಕರೆದುಕೊಂಡು ಹೋದರು. ಅಲ್ಲಿ 1430 temperature ಇರುತ್ತದೆ. 'ಇಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಡಿ ಭಂಗಾರ ಸಿಕ್ಕತಕ್ಕ gold line ಹೀಗೆ ಹೋಗಿದೆ, ಸ್ವಲ್ಪ ವ್ಯತ್ಯಾಸವಾದರೆ ಸಿಕುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಈಗ ಇಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಂತುಹೋಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಇನ್ನು 100 ಗಜ ಮುಂದಕ್ಕೆ ಬೇರೆ channel ಹೊಡೆದುಕೊಂಡು ಹೋದರೆ ಅಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿಕ್ಕುತ್ತದೆಯೋ ಇಲ್ಲವೋ ಗೊತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಅದನ್ನು ಕಂಡುಹಿಡಿಯಬೇಕಾದರೆ experts ಬೇಕು. ಐದು ಸಾವಿರ ರೂಪಾಯಿ ಸಂಬಳ ಕೊಡದೆ ಇದ್ದರೆ ಅವರು ಬರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಈ ಭಂಗಾರದ ಗಣಿಗಳು ಪ್ರಪಂಚದಲ್ಲೆಲ್ಲಾ ಬಹಳ deepest mines. ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡುವುದು ಎಷ್ಟು ಕಷ್ಟ, ಇದನ್ನು ತಾವು ಪರ್ಯಾಲೋಚನೆ ಮಾಡಿ ! ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿದರು. ಈ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ನಾನು ಹೇಳುವುದೇನೆಂದರೆ, ಅವರಿಗೆ ಕಷ್ಟ ಇದೆ. ಅವರಿಗೂ ಸಹ ಎಲ್ಲಿ ಭಂಗಾರವಿದೆಯೆಂದು ಸರಿಯಾಗಿ ಗೊತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಇತರರು ಯಾರಿಗೂ ಗೊತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ನಮ್ಮ expertsಗೂ ಸಹ ಇದು ತೊಡಕಿನ ವಿಷಯವಾಗಿದೆ. ಈಗ ಅವರು ಕೆಲಸ ನಿಲ್ಲಿಸಿಬಿಟ್ಟರೆ ಗಣಿಗಳೆಲ್ಲಾ ನೀರುಬಿದ್ದು ಒಂದು ದೊಡ್ಡ lake ಆಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಇಂಥದಕ್ಕೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರದವರು ಅವಕಾಶ ಕೊಡುವುದಿಲ್ಲವೆಂದು ನಂಬಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದೇನೆ.

10 A.M.

ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ನಾನು ಹೇಳಿದ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಅವರ ಹತ್ತಿರ ಒಂದು ಒಪ್ಪಂದಕ್ಕೆ ಬಂದು ಇನ್ನು 100 ವರ್ಷದ ನಂತರವಾದರೂ ಈ ಗಣಿಗಳು ಉಳಿಯುವ ಹಾಗೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಸಾಧ್ಯವಿದೆ. ನಮಗೆ ಸರಿಯಾದ ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆದಾಯ ಬರುವಹಾಗೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು. ಹಿಂದೆ ಬ್ರಿಟಿಷರ ಕಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ ಇದ್ದಂಥ support ಅವರಿಗೆ ಈಗ ಇಲ್ಲದೆ ಇರುವುದರಿಂದ ಇರು ಎಂದರೆ ಇರುತ್ತಾರೆ ಹೋಗು ಎಂದರೆ ಹೋಗುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಇಷ್ಟಕ್ಕೇ ನಮ್ಮ sovereignty ಹೋಗುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳುವುದು ನ್ಯಾಯವಲ್ಲ. ಆದುದರಿಂದ ಈ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆಯನ್ನು ಖಂಡಿತ ಕಾಪಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು. ಈಗ ಅಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದು ದೊಡ್ಡ ನಗರವನ್ನು ಕಟ್ಟಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಇಂದು ಅವರು ಹೊರಟುಹೋದರೆ ನಾಳೆ ಒಂದು ದೊಡ್ಡ lake ಆಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಇಂಥ ನಗರವನ್ನೂ ಮತ್ತು ಅಲ್ಲಿನ ಗಣಿಗಳನ್ನೂ ನಾವು ಕಳೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಸಿದ್ಧವಾಗಿಲ್ಲ. ಆ ಗಣಿಗಳ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿಯನ್ನು ಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಒಪ್ಪಿಕೊಂಡರೆ, ಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಅವನ್ನು ಸ್ವಾಧೀನಕ್ಕೆ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಂಡರೆ ನಾನು ಅವರ ಹಿಂದೆ ಇರುತ್ತೇನೆ. ಹಾಗಿಲ್ಲದೆ ಇರುವ ಪಕ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ ಅವರ ಹತ್ತಿರ ಒಪ್ಪಂದಕ್ಕೆ ಬಂದು ನಮ್ಮ ಆದಾಯ ಸರಿಯಾದ ಮಾರ್ಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿರುವಂತೆ ಶೇಕಡ 10 ರಾಯಲ್ಟಿ ಕೊಡಿ, ಶೇಕಡ 20 ಕೊಡಿ ಎಂದು ಕೇಳಿದರೂ ಕೊಡುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಯಾಕೆಂದರೆ ಅವರು ಭಂಗಾರವನ್ನೆಲ್ಲ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಂಡು ಹೋಗಿ ಕಲ್ಲ ಮಾತ್ರ ಬಿಟ್ಟು ಹೋಗುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ನಾವು ತಯಾರಾಗಿಲ್ಲ. ನೀವು ಗಣಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವಾಧೀನಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಿ, ಇಲ್ಲವೆ ಇಷ್ಟು percentage ನಮಗೆ ಕೊಡಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿ. ಇವೆರಡರಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದನ್ನು ಮಾಡಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ಶ್ರೀಮಾನ್ ಇಮಾಂ ಸಾಹೇಬರು ಹೇಳಿದರು ಎನ್ನುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ನಾನು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಹೇಗೇ ಆಗಲಿ ಮೈಸೂರು ರಾಜ್ಯವನ್ನಾಳಿದ ಟಿಪ್ಪುಸುಲ್ತಾನ್ ವಂಶದಲ್ಲಿ ನಾನು ಹುಟ್ಟಿಲ್ಲ. ಅವರ ಹೇಳಿರುವಂಥದಕ್ಕೆ ಅವಕಾಶವಿಲ್ಲವೆಂದು ಮಾತ್ರ ನಾನು ಹೇಳುತ್ತೇನೆ. ಈ ಕಾರ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವ ರೀತಿಯ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಂಡರೂ ದೇಶದ ಹಿತ ಮಾತ್ರ ಹೋಗಕೂಡದು, ಆ ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಉಳಿಯಬೇಕು, ಅದು ಒಂದು ದೊಡ್ಡ ಸರೋವರವಾಗಕೂಡದು. ಇಷ್ಟು ಹೇಳಿ ನನ್ನ ಭಾಷಣವನ್ನು ಮುಗಿಸುತ್ತೇನೆ.

**Sri SYDNEY A. THOMAS** (Nominated).—Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to offer my contribution to this discussion. It is a discussion, Sir, the influence of which might have very far reaching and dangerous effects and repurcussions, if the recommendations of the Committee are accepted, not only on the industry and as a consequence on the revenues of the Government, but also on the future and on the prosperity of two lakhs of the population of Kolar Gold Fields whose lives are inextricably linked up, either directly or indirectly, with the future prosperity and the continuance of these gold mines ; that is most important of all. This is the all important factor which weighs heavily with me and should weigh with

(SRI SYDNEY A. THOMAS.)

the Government in taking any decision in the future. Therefore, Sir, I cannot, I dare not, and I will not, associate myself with any idea or semblance of an idea which might even remotely foster the premature closure or disintegration of the Kolar Gold Mines. Sir, my interest in these mines and the people who work in the mines is deep and abiding. Yesterday, the Hon'ble the Minister for Industries was pleased to make a reference that my forefathers have worked in the Kolar Gold Mines. Yes, Sir, there was a Thomas there long before John Taylor was there. The succession continues unbroken. My father has worked in these mines for 48 years and is still in harness. My father-in-law was killed in a rock burst in the Kolar Gold Fields. An uncle of mine is to-day incapacitated for eight months because of a rock burst in the mines. Sir, I only say all this by way of illustration because there are families, dozens of them, that have equally good records of service, families whose toil and sweat and life and blood have been given to this industry not only to see that the Government had their revenues but also to see that they themselves had the means and the wherewithal of living a happy life. So, Sir, I would make a plea on behalf of these very many families, twenty thousand families on the field, and ask the Government to be very careful so that any future steps they might take may not affect us and leave us penniless and paupers.

Let me tell you, Sir, something of the working of these mines. These mines have been in production for the last 75 years. They have now reached depths of 10,000 and more feet below the surface. Due to these depths and the inherent stresses peculiar to the rocks of Kolar Gold Fields, the incidence of rock bursts is always there. This involves incurrence of very heavy expenditure. Every level has got to be supported not only by steel and timber setting, but also sometimes by concrete arching and also by tunneling known as foot-wall driving. I do not want to be too technical. There are extreme problems of support, dust suppression, ventilation, pumping, and various other ancillary problems too intricate to explain here. Because of these, Sir, the costs are high. When these costs exceed the revenue, then the gold must be left back in the mine, forgotten for ever, as it has happened in the case of Oorgaum Gold Mines. When the costs exceeded the revenue, the mines were closed. Such a position faces the Champion Reef Mines today, because the Champion Reef Mines today are facing crisis. They declared no dividend last year and to-day they have an overdraft.

Turning to the Agreement, Sir, I listened with rapt attention, and who did not, to the Hon'ble the Minister for Industries yesterday. Even though he was very eloquent, I was not wholly carried away by his eloquence, Sir. I could give answer to many of the issues which he raised there. But, these are controversial issues and I am not here to take up the cudgels on behalf of the Management for fear of being misunderstood.

Sri A. BHEEMAPPA NAIK.—We would like you to answer some of these things.

Sri SYDNEY A. THOMAS.—I am mainly concerned, Sir, with the recommendations made by the Committee, the main recommendation being the proposal to double the royalty, *viz.*, of 5 per cent to 10 per cent. In making this recommendation the Committee reviewed the Agreement in detail and vouchsafed an opinion that the Company had violated the terms of the Agreement. But, it is significant, Sir, very strangely so, that the Committee did not recommend that the clause providing for arbitration in case of dispute should not be invoked. I understand the anxiety of the Government to have more revenues from these mines. I am one with the Government to see that the burden and incidence of taxation which now falls so heavily on the common man should be relieved by those whose potential is greater to do so. But the Committee, in making this 10 per cent recommendation, did not take into account all the factors which lead to the dwindling, to almost nothing, of the additional royalty and contribution to Government. They

forgot to emphasise the important factor that the price of gold fell from Rs. 306 per ounce in 1949 to 229 in 1952. This was the most important factor which deprived the Government of its revenue. Gold, Sir, as we know, is sold in the open market in Bombay and neither the Government nor the Company have any control over that price. If the price drops and the costs of the Companies rise, then I am afraid there is no return to the Government. In making this recommendation, the Committee did not take into account of what I consider five important factors. These are (1) the contractual obligation of the Government under the mining lease as varied from 1949; (2) any change in circumstances since 1949 to warrant the revision of the Agreement; (3) the ability of the mines to meet this extraordinary position now; (4) the effect on the future policy and the continued existence of the mines as viable units; and (5) the effect of lower gold prices and higher working costs in the future.

I will examine each of these points serially.

Point No. 1 is *contractual obligations.*—The present leases last from 1940 to 1970 and they provide for Royalty and Additional Royalty, and because of the Repeal of the Gold Duty Act of 1949, the Companies agreed to pay Contribution. Now, it appears from the speech of the Hon'ble the Minister for Industries that there is a move to legislate so that income may be assured to the Government. I do not think this is ethically proper. I think the Management of the mines and the Government can still come together and evolve a suitable formula whereby the Government can get its rightful share. I do not think legislation is the proper thing.

No. 2 is, *any change in the circumstance since 1949 to warrant a revision of the agreement.*—Nowhere in the Committee's Report has any reference been made to any change in the circumstances, Sir, to justify this doubling of royalty. In fact, the Report states that the position of the Mines is worsening and costs have gone up. This makes out a case for lowering the royalty. If the position of the mines is worsening and the price of gold has dropped and costs have gone up, there is every case for lowering the royalty.

SRI A. BHEEMAPPA NAIK.—If the establishment and salaries are increased, if the pension contributions are made, naturally the cost mounts up.

SRI SYDNEY A. THOMAS.—I will explain that later on, Sir.

A MEMBER.—He is an official of the Company.

SRI SYDNEY A. THOMAS.—I refute the insinuation, Sir. The Duty on Gold being a tax on the gross receipts on the sale of gold was unrelated to the ability of the industry to pay; and it was this undesirable principle which the Repealing Act sought to remove. Otherwise, I fear that, in spite of what the Ooregaum Mine Closure Committee have said, another of the mines would have been closed today.

Now, Sir, I shall examine the ability of the mines to bear this extra imposition now. The Committee has made no estimate anywhere or drawn up any statement, even though they have drawn up so many other statements, to show the revenue of the mines and its disposal in any one year. I am going to give figures for 1953, Sir, reconstructed from the figures which appear in the Report. These are not my figures; these are figures which appear in the Official Report (statement No. 15). In Mysore Mine the value realised was 161·3 lakhs—less Royalty 8 lakhs it comes to 153·3 lakhs (*vide* royalty statement No. 3)—less costs (statement No. 15) 146·7 lakhs, leaving a balance of 6·6 lakhs—less income-tax (statement No. 5) 1·15 leaves a balance of 5·5 lakhs. There was no contribution payable in 1953 Sir,—less dividend 6 per cent (statement No. 3) leaving a balance of 0·6 lakh. The capital expenditure of the Mysore Mine was 3·3 lakhs and you have a balance of 0·6 lakh which does not even go to meet the capital expenditure, leave alone another 8 lakhs to meet the double royalty. Even if there was no income-tax payable, even if there was no dividend payable, even if there was

(SRI SYDNEY A THOMAS.)

no contribution to pension, these 8 lakhs would not have been there to meet the doubled royalty. I can also give the cases of the Champion Reefs and Nandydroog Mine but I will furnish it to the Hon'ble Minister later.

Sri H. SIDDAVEERAPPA (Minister for Home and Industries).—I shall be glad if you can hand over to me that statement so that I will study and reply.

Sri SYDNEY A. THOMAS.—I have given the position of the Mysore Mines and it shows that even if there was no income-tax payable, even if there was no dividend payable and even if there was no contribution, these 8 lakhs are not there to meet the doubled royalty. In fact I do not think there would have been even three lakhs. So, Sir, if royalty was doubled it would mean that it would be necessary to curtail capital expenditure on the development work in the mines.

I shall now examine the next point. Before doing so, I would say that the doubling of royalty would affect the longevity of the mines which is one of the terms of the agreement and which has, professedly, the support of the Committee. In Mysore Mine the position is this, Sir. Even though, we had gone down to 10,000 ft. you do not find very high grade ore and because of that, it is very uneconomic to work the ore bodies below the 76th level, *i.e.*, levels lower than 7,600 below the surface. At present most of the work is in the upper levels, working ore bodies which were left undiscovered in the past, or in shaft pillars. All this is low grade ore, insipid stuff, that has to be sweetened with high-grade ore from the 43rd ore-shoot. In this ore-shoot mining has to be very slow because of the hazards and the frequency of rock-bursts. It is not as if production here could be increased at will. As I mentioned earlier an uncle of mine has been incapacitated, because of a rock-burst while working in this particular ore-shoot. When the 43rd ore-shoot is exhausted, Mysore Mine would face a crisis if no new ore-bodies are discovered as a result of curtailed development.

Sri H. SIDDAVEERAPPA.—I only said you know how to correlate the prices to the working of low grade or high grade ore according to swing in the price structure. That I am going to prove by facts and figures. If you want to oppose and advance arguments, I am prepared to examine them.

Sri SYDNEY A. THOMAS.—I shall now refer to the Champion Reef Mines. My friend Sri Vasan would be more competent and qualified to talk about the Champion Reef Mines than myself.

Sri K. S. VASAN (Kolar Gold Fields).—I am not going to agree with his conclusions.

Sri SYDNEY A. THOMAS.—He has never agreed with me for the last 15 years! Anyway if Sri Vasan is going to dispute what I am going to say, let him do so. But I am placing the facts as I know them. In the Champion Reef Mines, the rich ores are concentrated in great depth. Because of this great depth and the extreme rock pressures, it is essential to follow very cautious policy of mining and ground control. Even in the Champion Reef Mines, the value of the ore-shoots are falling off in depth and if they have to be developed, more development and capital expenditure is necessary. If doubled royalty is going to be there, it is not likely that money is going to be available, and the Champion Reef Mines would face the same fate as the Oorgaum Mines did a few years ago.

The case of the Nandidroog Mine is quite different. They have discovered large reserves of low grade ore in a new reef. In order to be able to work this low grade ore the output has got to be increased. Even for that a new milling plant to mill the ore and a new shaft will be required to bring up the ore sufficiently fast. As I said the ore there is not very rich grade and if doubling the royalty was going to be there, it would not be sufficiently attractive for anybody to work these low grade ores and also to take the risks involved because this is a high-risk industry as Government

know to their bitter experience at Bellara.

Sri H. SIDDAVEERAPPA.—There is no relation between Bellara and the Kolar Gold Field Mines. We have not closed Bellara operations because of want of technical know-how, but because we found that gold is not yet ripe for being mined. We have not abandoned. We have only postponed the day of reaping the harvest.

Mr. SPEAKER.—Even that is on the advice of Messrs. John Taylor.

Sri SYDNEY A. THOMAS.—Whatever it is, Sir, I am only making the statement to tell you that this is a high-risk industry, whether it is going to be worked 50 years or 100 years later. I think you lost at the rate of 20 thousands every year for ten years.

Sri H. SIDDAVEERAPPA.—What we did in Bellara, our forefathers did in Kolar Gold Fields and you are benefited by their experiments.

Sri SYDNEY A. THOMAS.—And my forefathers too. As I said, I do not wish to enter into any controversy with you, Sir.

To summarise the position of these three mines, I would say that if royalty is doubled, two of these mines would be faced with the possibility of premature closure. Nandydroog perhaps might continue but on very unattractive terms. This, Sir, is not mere threat, as some Hon'ble Members say. The possibility is always there. A few years ago, when we heard of the Oorgaum Mines closure, we took it very lightly. Today, it is a *fait accompli*.

Sri K. S. VASAN.—Well, they must tell us whether Oorgaum Mine has really been closed.

Sri H. SIDDAVEERAPPA.—The point I would like Sri Thomas to enlighten me upon would be this: When they say that Oorgaum Mine is closed, I want to know whether or not some parts or area which once came within the jurisdiction of Oorgaum Mines are still worked by the Champion Reef and whether they are not interlinked together. As a whole it has not been abandoned, but some parts of the area are still being worked. Will you kindly enlighten me on that?

Sri SYDNEY A. THOMAS.—It is very simply explained. The Oorgaum Mine cannot be worked economically. You have to lower men from the surface to the bottom. There are intermediate levels which have to be manned. That would increase the cost. In the Champion Reef Mines you have men going down for work and they do not have to incur any extra cost as these intermediate levels in the Champion Reef Mines are already manned for mining in Champion Reef.

Sri H. SIDDAVEERAPPA.—That is actually economising the cost.

Sri A. BHEEMAPPA NAIK.—There is the stuff there. You have devised a method by which you could get into that mine from elsewhere. Does it not mean that the lame duck is there. You called it lame duck and you are getting the stuff whether you are going down there direct or whether you are going there crosswise. Is that not what is happening?

Sri K. S. VASAN.—I think it would be more correct if I say, and I think Sri Thomas would also agree, that the Oorgaum Mining Company was liquidated but the same property is being worked by the Champion Reef Company to whom the lease has been transferred by the Government. It is only an arrangement between A and A. A has asked A to work.

Mr. SPEAKER.—I suggest the Hon'ble Member Sri Thomas may be allowed to continue.

Sri SYDNEY A. THOMAS.—3,000 people are unemployed. That is the crux of the question.

Sri H. SIDDAVEERAPPA.—So far as 3,000 workers are concerned, they were offered alternative jobs. Because they got attractive pay and ready cash lumpsum, they did not like to go and attend to work. Therefore there is no substance in the statement that 3,000 men are out of job.

1-30 A.M.

Sri SYDNEY A. THOMAS.—You are misinformed on the point. They were offered employment when suitable

(SRI SYDNEY A. THOMAS.)

or alternate employment was available. They did not prefer to wait for six months or a year. They chose to draw that lumpsum.

I go on to point No. 5 *the effect of lower gold price or higher working cost for the future.* In 1952 when the price of gold slumped to Rs. 229, the mines had a set back, the costs swelled up, and any further increase in the cost now or fall in the price of gold now would make the position very difficult. To-day the present position is bad. I am in a position to know, and probably you too through your Director, that in Mysore Mine and Nandydroog Mine we have worked at a deficit, in Nandydoorg due to fire last year and in Mysore Mine due to an unfortunate rock-burst. So, we must consider evolving a suitable formula for the future, considering the effects of the possible fall in gold price and what effect any rise in future costs would have. This then is the position of the mines as I see it, not strictly from a technical viewpoint because I am not a technical man there, but being on the spot I am in the know of something of the working of the mine. What is needed now is a more rational and a more realistic approach to the whole question. Reports—blue reports and yellow reports, I am afraid, don't help the atmosphere. What is wanted is scrapping of your report and on the top of it, the mining rejoinder—burn them both, consign them to the fire heap and from the ashes I trust there will arise a phœnix which will usher in an atmosphere of goodwill and understanding and cordiality. Yesterday, the Leader of the Opposition was pleased to say that the gulf was so wide that it could not be bridged for you to come together and evolve some suitable formula for the working of these mines in the future and the collection of each one's just dues. I disagree with him. Great nations, gulfs apart, have come together and they are able to sort out their differences. I do not see why both the Government and the Management cannot do the same. I appeal to both of you.

MR. SPEAKER.—Now the House will rise for lunch and meet at 11 O'clock.

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*The House rose for Lunch at Thirty-two Minutes past Three of the Clock and met again at Eleven of the Clock.*

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[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair.]

MR. SPEAKER.—Now there is very limited time at our disposal. I request all members who wish to speak, to be very brief and not cover the same points.

SRI T. MARIAPPA (Mysore City—North).—Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have heard with a great deal of attention to what the Minister said with regard to the Report of the Committee. Equally interesting were the arguments advanced by Sri Sydney A. Thomas. He made out a case for a very sympathetic handling of the Agreement between the two parties. It was marked by a great deal of moderation and, as he put it, he was not willing to enter into any controversy. Yesterday, Sri Imam, the Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition, and Sri Pattabhiraman very eloquently tried to have the post-mortem of the Agreement entered into during the year 1949. I very respectfully submit to this House that it is not open to every new Assembly to sit in judgment over what has happened, over an Agreement ratified by the previous Assembly and the Legislative Council. Sir, you were also a member of the Gold Review Committee and you were fully aware of the conditions that obtain in a gold mining industry. It is admitted on all hands that gold mining is a very risky venture and as one of the Hon'ble Members put it, it is a wasting asset. Every ounce of gold taken out of the bowels of the mother earth cannot be put back again. Therefore, under the circumstances, we must make the best use of the natural resources available in our country. We must lengthen the life of the mine, work to the best advantage possible for the prosperity of the particular area and the people who derive benefit therefrom. That was perhaps the reason why the leases were granted to the prospectors. I am not prepared to go into the entire

history of how these mines were worked bit by bit and in a very primitive manner in the early stages. Coming to the year 1880, the leases then were granted for a period of 30 years from that year. The leases that were granted in 1880 were for a period of 30 years and they were renewed from 1910 and again from 1940. The present leases will continue till the year 1970. Therefore, we are speaking on this question during the currency of existing leases varied by the Agreement entered into in the year 1949. Let us not lose sight of this particular fact that a contract subsists between the Government of Mysore and the Gold Mining Company as lessees. I am not prepared to subscribe to the view that the Government of Mysore is not the owner of the mine. The Government of Mysore has got two capacities; one as the contracting party, the lessor, the other as a Government responsible to the people of Mysore with whom the legislative powers through this Assembly rests. It is always open to the Government under appropriate Articles of the Constitution to get enacted such measures as would safeguard the legitimate interest of the people of Mysore, while at the same time conserving the natural resources for the benefit of the people. It is necessary for me to say that a contractual obligation exists between the two parties. Sir, some of the members in a very forceful language said that the natural wealth of Mysore was carried away and the Companies paid themselves several times more than what they invested in this gold mining venture. Nobody was responsible for such a state of affairs. At any rate, we were not. It was after all a private contract. A Company came forward with all the risks attendant upon such a venture, took a lease from the Government of Mysore and then worked the mine. The Government of Mysore then to the best extent possible safeguarded the interests of Mysore by levying the royalty and an additional royalty and other taxes which they could levy. Therefore, to say that the period from 1940 or the period from 1949 onwards was not characterised by patriotism is to ignore facts. (*A Member* : *Who said*?) Some members said. (*A Member* : *Nobody said.*) If you can only see what was underlying that very eloquent language of a friend, you would have understood what it was. If we can only see the rate of dividend that was paid to the Company, it was 125 per cent to 150 per cent. Can we say that the people who presided over the destinies of Mysore during that period were not patriotic? I can only refer to one instance. Dr. Sir M. Visvesvaraya who is alive to-day, was he not patriotic? But, all the same, he allowed the Companies to pay themselves such heavy dividends because, after all, it was a contract and there was a private Company that was exploiting the natural resources. You kindly trace the history from 1880 onwards. Whenever an occasion arose, the Company certainly exploited the natural resources. Till the year 1940 nothing was done to tax the extra income that the Company was getting. It is true in 1921 income-tax was levied. Then the Mysore Government had the power to impose income-tax and from 1921 onwards income-tax was levied. For the first time in 1940 the Gold Duty Act was passed. It was hardly five years before it was thought fit to grant relief to this Company. I will only deal with that period between 1945 and 1949. During 1944 itself, they approached the Government; they wanted relief because they could not plough back more money for the development of the mines. It was then examined in great detail. If you could only refer to the Report of this Committee, you will see that the relief was given on very substantial grounds. I may also refer at this stage to the promise made that the question of repealing the Gold Duty would be examined when the proper time came. I refer to page 125. This is what Sir Mirza M. Ismail said in his Budget speech to the Representative Assembly in June 1940:

"We passed an Emergency Act requiring payment of a special duty on gold equal to three-fourths of the difference between the price at which gold was sold and the

(SRI T. MARIAPPA.)

price of Rs. 100 an ounce, which was taken as a standard. . . ."

Later on, he says:

"I do not think there is any reason to expect that it will cause a reduction in the dividends that the Companies have been able to pay. . . ."

Then it was right to take appropriate profits in the form of dividends, because after all the time was such when with our eyes open we allowed a private Company to get more dividends. It was then natural perhaps. Now things have changed. We are becoming more socialistic and there is a necessity now for a new approach. He further says:

"I do not think there is any reason to expect that it will cause a reduction in the dividends that the Companies have been able to pay in the past, and if that is the case, it will operate as a tax on excess profits. Should this anticipation be incorrect, the Government will be a sufferer along with the Companies and we shall be ready to re-examine the question in the light of any fresh considerations that may arise."

The same assurance was repeated by the Government in the Legislative Council during the Budget Session, 1940. Further, an order sanctioning relief was passed.

"A big fire occurred in the Oorguam Gold Mine in May 1942, when Government were approached to waive the duty on Gold produced by the Company during the first six months of 1943 to enable the Company to meet the cost of rehabilitation of the mine necessitated by fire. . . ."

All through, you will find that one desire that characterised the Government of Mysore and its policy was to preserve the mine for as long a period as possible. The life of the mine should be lengthened and low grade ore should be worked, particularly when gold prices were very high so that the State could derive the maximum benefit possible. When the Gold Duty relief was given, you will see the conditions under which it was granted and also the very liberal terms that it offered to the Mining Company, because the Government themeselves understood the precarious position of the Company, particularly when they were not left with adequate resources to develop the mine.

On page 20 of the Report:

"Under the new Duty Relief Scheme which came into force in 1945, the following concessions were allowed.—

(1) Refund in cash of Duty Relief subject to a maximum of 50 per cent of the Duty paid.

(2) Exemption from payment of Royalty on the Relief.

(3) Allowance for payment of Mysore Income-tax in addition to Relief of 50 per cent.

"The Relief Scheme also provided for the payment of Bonus for working low grade and this was subject to a maximum of 2 per cent of the paid up capital of each Company. Government also acceded to the request of the Companies for provision of dividends at 7½ per cent free of Tax instead of 10 per cent previously accepted under the Duty Relief Scheme. . . ."

One of the Hon'ble Members said yesterday that the Agreement entered into during 1949 guaranteed 6 per cent interest. I will presently show that it was not so, but true that it was guaranteed at least 3 per cent. Would any Company come forward to undertake a risky venture unless they are assured of at least 6 per cent dividend? Are we not paying 20 per cent in the case of Sugar Factory? We can examine the balance-sheet of the Sugar Company. Are we not paying 20 per cent for so many years? Therefore, to say that the Mining Company is not entitled to at least 6 per cent, to say the least, is not to be reasonable. I am not pleading on behalf of the Company. If there was a breach of

agreement, the Government was entitled to take all possible measures to make the Company realise their position and I will certainly be one with the Government in making them think that they would not be able to work the mine any longer in Mysore than under the terms agreed to between the Government and the Company. Then,

> ". . . . By these concessions the margin of profit per ounce of fine gold during the Duty period was brought almost to the same level as of 1939, pre-duty period. [Statements 6(a), 6(b) and 6(c).] In 1946, as part of the Relief Scheme. Loan was granted for development work. . . ."

This is very important because under the Gold Duty Relief Act, the Government can only give relief to the extent of 50 per cent. In 1946, Sir, the question was again examined and the Government realised that a little more relief was needed and because under the Act, they could not give higher relief, they gave a loan. The loan assistance was given to the Companies as under to carry on the capital programme :—

| | | Rs. in lakhs. |
|---|---|---|
| Mysore Mines | ... | 6·52 |
| Champion Reef | ... | 4·84 |
| Nandydroog | ... | 6·60 |

What I am trying to make out is that even though Gold Duty was there, it was discovered subsequently that with the levy of Gold Duty it was not possible to make the Companies work the low grade ore. So, in order to make the Companies undertake development footage and take up other developmental work of exploration of new ores, relief became necessary. The then Financial Secretary, Sri B. S. Raghavendra Rao went into the whole question and he was also a member of the Gold Review Committee of which you were also a member for some time. Sir, the Committee also have given a very valuable statement to compare what would have been the position if the Gold Duty had not been abolished. There would have been deficit in working the mines. It is found in statements published. Sir, it was said yesterday that the price of gold was soaring and that it reached the peak level of 306 in 1949 and that was not the most inauspicious period for entering into an Agreement with the Company. Sir, it looks very plausible, particularly for a layman who does not go deep into these facts. I would like to read the Statement No. 6, page 75 of the Report. The statement shows margin of profits per fine ounce of gold after making provision for Duty net and Royalty. In 1940 when the Gold Duty was imposed, the price was 113. In 1949 it reached the peak figure of 306. You will kindly see the cost price in 1940. The cost price per ounce was 60·90 and in 1949 it was 206. Therefore, the gross profit was 52·10 in 1940 and it was 99·80 in 1949. The gold duty was 41·92 and the Duty relief was Rs. 27·03 in 1949, *i.e.*, the net duty was Rs. 14·89. The profit after payment of duty was 84·91. Therefore you see the net duty that the Government was given in 1940 was 6·90. In the following years it was as follows :—

| | | Rs. in lakhs. |
|---|---|---|
| 1941 | ... | 12·00 |
| 1942 | ... | 33·75 |
| 1943 | ... | 77·25 |
| 1944 | ... | 57·70 |

In 1944 an *ex gratia* payment of nearly Rs. 13 lakhs was given because Gold Duty Act was not amended and they promised to amend it later. Similarly in 1945, the net duty given was 33·45. Then from 57·70 it got reduced to 14·89 in 1949 because the production cost rose up. Therefore, you will kindly see the causes that operated in 1949 were these: the war boom must come to an end at some given period ; that was drawing to a close when the prices would certainly go down. In 1949 itself, we have to visualise that the higher price would not any longer last because it had reached the peak figure of 306 and subsequent events have justified that expectation in 1949. The net duty was dwindling year by year. Therefore, Sir, the only reasonable course then

(SRI T. MARIAPPA.)

was to find out a method by which we could assure ourselves of a reasonable share in profits. Another circumstance may be kindly borne in mind in this connection. Sir, by 1949, the new Constitution had been prepared and it came into effect from 26th January 1950, and negotiations were going on for the financial integration with the Government of India and the State Government can no longer lay claim to any taxes either on the profits or on the selling rates. Therefore, you will kindly see the background and the situation that obtained in the year 1949. And you must also kindly bear in mind that during 1949 the lease deed that was renewed in the year 1945 was current. It is current till 1970. The only course open to the Mysore Government and the Company was to come to an agreement to vary the lease deeds. Therefore there was the Deed of Variation. We did not enter into any fresh lease nor were the Companies willing to enter into a fresh lease. The circumstances then were made use of by the Government to enter into an agreement which would be as favourable as possible. Sir, if the terms of the agreement have been violated, there is ample power for the Government. In fact, I am struck by the very reasonable manner in which the whole thing was put forward by the Minister. He never pleaded for nationalisation. The Report has not pleaded for nationalisation. It practically stunned me when I heard Sri J. Mohamed Imam who is a party to this Report and who has not even given a dissenting note and yet put forward the plea for nationalisation of the Industry. After a great deal of deliberation, what the Committee wanted was a little more income. They have merely suggested that the present Royalty should be doubled. Of course, they have gone into every detail. Therefore, if you put these facts in proper juxtaposition, you will be able to see that the Company was not able to give us enough profits because we became entitled to sharing of profits.

ಶ್ರೀ ಎಸ್. ಗೋಪಾಲಗೌಡ (ಸಾಗರ-ಹೊಸನಗರ).—ನಮ್ಮ ನಾಯಕರು ಹೇಳಿದ್ದು ಹಾಗಲ್ಲ. ಅವರು ಹೇಳಿದ್ದು ಈ ಗೋಲ್ಡ್ ಮೈನಿಂಗ್ ವಿಚಾರಣಾ ಸಮಿತಿಯ ರಿಪೋರ್ಟನ್ನು ಸರ್ಕಾರದವರು ಸಭೆಯ ಮುಂದೆ ಮಂಡಿಸಿದನಂತರ ಆ ಭಂಗಾರದ ಗಣಿ ಕಂಪೆನಿಯವರು ಮತ್ತೊಂದು ವರದಿಯನ್ನು ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಪ್ರತಿಯಾಗಿ ಹೊರಡಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಅದರ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರದವರು ಸಾಕಷ್ಟು ವಿವರಣೆಯನ್ನು ಕೊಡದೆ ಹೋದರೆ ನಾವು ಇದರಲ್ಲಿ ಕೋ-ಆಪರೇಟ್ ಮಾಡುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಆಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿದರು . . . .

Sri T. MARIAPPA.—Sir, I am not prepared to yield. I would like to read the portions of the Committee's findings.

Mr. SPEAKER.—I think every Hon'ble Member has read the Report. So you need not waste time by reading the Report.

Sri T. MARIAPPA.—After all, Sir, we must confine ourselves to the remarks made by the Committee. It would certainly be beyond our purview while we consider the Report, either to take sides or even suggest amendments. But the question before us is whether the Committee have advocated nationalisation. "Let us not talk of nationalisation in a very light manner particularly of mining where there is a great deal of risk and where we know for certain it is a wasting asset." A very wise policy will have to be followed with a view to make the best out of this Industry.

Sir, another remark was made yesterday that we should compare the terms of the Gold Duty Act and the terms of the Agreement. The two are not comparable. The first one was a piece of legislation with a view to levy Duty and for this purpose certain clauses were put in. But this is an agreement between two parties. So, there cannot be any comparison between the provisions of an Act and the provisions of an Agreement. At least I can say that the Government of Mysore then did not contract its power out to legislate in this matter. I would only draw the attention of the House to page 105 of the Committee's Report. Sir, the lease was renewed in the year 1935, *i.e.*, five years before the expiry of the lease. It was Sir Mirza who renewed this lease. It was not placed before the Assembly though I remember some

members then raised that point. On page 105 it is stated thus :

> "The Lessors hereby covenant with the Lessees that during the residue of the term granted by the existing Lease the Lessors shall not in exercise of their Governmental or other powers levy or impose any special taxation on Kolar Gold."

Sir, by a clause of this kind, the Government of the day had agreed not to legislate or impose more taxation. Was it patriotic ? So, comparisons are invidious and sometimes odious. It is much better that such things are left unsaid. We did not do anything of that kind. We did not contract out of power to levy taxation. It is always open to the Government of Mysore to legislate. Because we had that weapon, the Company had to come to terms.

ಶ್ರೀ ಎಸ್. ಗೋಪಾಲಗೌಡ.—ತಾವು ಈ ಅಗ್ರಿಮೆಂಟಿಗೂ ಮತ್ತು ಆ ಗೋಲ್ಡ್ ಡ್ಯೂಟಿ ಆಕ್ಟಿಗೂ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿ ಮಾತನಾಡಲು ಅವಕಾಶವೇ ಇಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ಹೇಗೆ ಹೇಳುತ್ತೀರಿ ? ಈ ಒಂದಕ್ಕೊಂದಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋಲಿಕೆಯನ್ನೇ ಹಾಕಬಾರದೆಂದು ಏತಕ್ಕೆ ಹಾಗೆ ಹೇಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದೀರಿ ?

ಶ್ರೀ ಟಿ. ಮರಿಯಪ್ಪ.—1949ರಲ್ಲಿ ಅಗ್ರಿಮೆಂಟಾಯಿತು. ಆ ಹಿಂದೆ ಗೋಲ್ಡ್ ಡ್ಯೂಟಿ ಆಕ್ಟ್ ಜಾರಿಯಲ್ಲಿತ್ತು. ಅದನ್ನು ಪರಿಶೀಲನೆ ಮಾಡಿದನಂತರ ನಮಗೆ ಅಗ್ರೀಮೆಂಟ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದೇ ಅನುಕೂಲವೆಂದು ಆಗ ಕಂಡುಬಂದಿತು. ಆದರೆ ನಾವು ಮುಂದಕ್ಕೆ ಈ ರೀತಿ ಯಾವ ಟ್ಯಾಕ್ಸನ್ನೂ ಹಾಕುವುದಿಲ್ಲವೆಂದು ಏನೂ ಅಗ್ರಿಮೆಂಟ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿಲ್ಲ. ಈ ಹಿಂದೆ 1935ರಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದು ಅಗ್ರಿಮೆಂಟಾಗಿತ್ತು ಅದರಲ್ಲಿ ನಾವು ನಿಮ್ಮ ಮೇಲೆ ಯಾವ ಟ್ಯಾಕ್ಸನ್ನೂ ಅಂದರೆ ಈ ಕೋಲಾರ ಗೋಲ್ಡಿನ ಮೇಲೆ ಯಾವ ಟ್ಯಾಕ್ಸನ್ನೂ ಹಾಕುವುದಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ಒಪ್ಪಿಗೆಯಾಗಿತ್ತು.

Sri H. K. VEERANNA GOWDH (Maddur).—The charge made by Sri Pattabhiraman was whether it was proper to replace the Act by a contract ?

Sri A. BHEEMAPPA NAIK.—Perhaps, Sri Pattabhiraman did not know that all these mining companies are worked under leases. Even the Manganese Mine has to be worked under a lease. There was no question of lease not being given. But the varying of the lease and the repealing of the Gold Duty were the points at issue.

Sri T. MARIAPPA.—I would presently answer that point. I have already made it clear that the lease was renewed in 1935 prior to the expiry of the lease in 1940. We are in the period of the currency of the lease. The lease subsists till the year 1970. What we did was : we entered into a deed of variation with a view to vary the terms of the lease. If these terms had been left untouched they were entitled to make any profit they liked. There was no obligation to limit the dividend to six per cent ; there was no obligation to plough back the profit to development works ; there was no obligation to work the low grade ore. Because we had this Gold Duty, they realised that it was better to enter into an agreement to secure more favourable results.

11-30 A.M.

It is true, Sir, that some of the members said that they did not question the *bona fides* ; I am grateful to them for that. Now, I want to make it clear that the Lease still subsists ; only we varied the terms of the Lease because we wanted to share the profits with the Company. Sir, Statement No. 6 and subsequent statements make it clear that the existence of the Gold Duty was not bringing as much revenue as it was bringing in the early years. The Government was put to the necessity of giving relief. What they took in one hand had to be handed over by the other hand. There was another factor also. We were in the midst of transitional stage and particularly after integration, we did not know who would share the profit and whether the Central Government would have allowed us to tax the profits. Therefore, we wanted to enter into a most favourable agreement, particularly in the crucial period 1949. Thus, this agreement was entered into. If you kindly see the clauses, Sir, it is said that the low grade ore should be worked, sufficient development should take place, 15 per cent must be set apart for developmental fund and the working cost should be kept down. But, unfortunately, the cost rose up, and the duty payable to the Government gradually dwindled.

Sir, the Hon'ble the Minister has answered most of the points and I am not prepared to traverse the same

(SRI T. MARIAPPA.)

ground. Therefore, the existence of the Duty itself became unattractive by the year 1949. In 1946 itself, in addition to the relief given, the Government was obliged to give loan with a view to lengthen the lives of the mines. Previously, the Government had not had the power of deputing any auditor or nominating a Director to the Board of Management. Under the original lease, Government had no power to look into the working of the mines. That is why power had to be taken by varying the terms of the lease deed so that we can have our own Director and an Auditor. We got a lot of experience in this way. Our Auditor used to go into the whole question, and thus we gained a lot of experience.

Sri P. R. RAMAIYA.—Why was the Act not amended instead of being abolished ?

Sri T. MARIAPPA.—Sir, the Gold Duty Act was abolished in pursuance of the Agreement. My Hon'ble friend has misunderstood me. In 1949 there was the Gold Duty Act. In 1945 it had to be amended to give relief up to 50 per cent. Therefore, what was taken in one hand was given again in the other to extend the life of the mines. Therefore, we thought it was not worthwhile to keep the Gold Duty Act alive, particularly when the other countries like South Africa and Australia had abolished it long prior to this year. Therefore, after long negotiations, we have done it here; otherwise, the Company could have said, "We are not prepared to share the profits". When the other countries had abolished, the claim for its repeal became irresistible. After all, it is open to the contracting company to say, 'please abolish this duty because it is abolished in other countries.' We could not have continued the duty after financial integration. You will see Sir, from 1st April 1950, even our own income-tax which Mysore was getting, was transferred to the Centre. All these factors were taken into consideration and we thought that it would be better to abolish the Duty and at the same time to secure to Government a share in the surplus of profits. Sir, if the terms of the Agreement had been adhered to scrupulously, it would have certainly brought some money to Government. We expected that at least 25 to 30 lakhs would be made available to Government as share in the profits. Sir, certain events have happened and those events have to be considered very carefully. Even on ethical grounds we have to consider them. Sir, we have a big stick now no doubt. It is very good to possess a gaint's strength ; but, it is not correct to use it. I do not suggest that the legislative power should not be invoked to safeguard the interest of Mysore ; it must certainly be invoked. But what I am pleading is, in all such contracts where there is a violation of Agreement it is up to the parties to sit together and come to an understanding. If the other party is adamant, then, Sir, it is open to the Government to legislate. There is nothing in the lease to say that we have no power to legislate. But, considering the policy of Government of India with regard to the foreign capital, we must be more careful. Sir, on the 11th April 1955, when moving the 4th Amendment in the Parliament, the Hon'ble Prime Minister has made it very clear that in cases of foreign investments we are not prepared to repudiate and reasonable compensation would be paid to those people where there is necessity to acquire. That assurance is given and many foreign companies have entered into Agreement with Government of India with a view to establish new industries. At the same time, let us not show a white feather. Let us tell them that we are sovereign and no longer dependent.

Mr. SPEAKER.—I do not think that the assurance given by the Prime Minister applies to this Company.

Sri T. MARIAPPA.—I never said that it applies to this Company, Sir. But, we have to follow a general policy. What I plead is, our power should be exercised when the party does not see reason. There is scope to make them see reason. As per the reasons advanced by Sri Sydney A. Thomas, we must bear in mind the prosperity of the area, the number of families depending on these

mines and the income that Government gets.

Regarding the violation of the agreement, it is not necessary for me to go into the details because I am not in possession of all the facts.

Regarding Indianisation, it takes a little more time, but the Company could have increased the tempo of Indianisation. This along with the constitution of the Pension Fund and the increase in salaries would appear to a casual reader that there is a violation of the agreement. Since I have not got all the facts before me, I am not in a position to pronounce a final opinion. Before I conclude, I very respectfully plead before this House that the agreement ratified by one Legislature unanimously should not be opened at every subsequent session of the Legislature.

(Sri L. Siddappa interrupted.)

Sri T. MARIAPPA.—Sir, nowhere they have suggested that it should be nationalised.

Sri H. K. VEERANNA GOWDH.—Mysore Government is the owner; nobody disputes that and the question of nationalisation does not come at all. It is our own property.

Sri A. BHEEMAPPA NAIK.—The land is ours, not the machinery.

Sri T. MARIAPPA.—I fail to understand the point of Sri Veeranna Gowdh. I did not plead for nationalisation. I answered to some of the points raised by Hon'ble Members who pleaded for nationalisation. I did not raise that topic at all. Moreover Sir, in the case of these Companies, it is a lease and during the currency of the lease if we were to take over the assets, we have to pay compensation. The circumstances justify it. After a careful consideration of these factors, the Government may come to definite conclusions. The Committee has not touched that point at all because they have seen the justification for not touching that point at all. Yesterday, some Hon'ble Member referred to the terms of reference of the Committee. I would like to read the terms of reference.

"(i) the effect of repeal of the Mysore Duty on Gold Act, 1940;

(ii) examination of the position arising out of the Agreement of 20th February 1949 between the Mining Companies and the Government; and

(iii) measures to ensure improvement in the returns from the Mining Industry."

These are the three clauses which have been mentioned in the terms of reference to the Committee. But unfortunately the debate centred round the other matter unrelated to this. I had to answer some of the points raised by Hon'ble Members. With these few words, I close my speech, Sir.

Sri D. DEVARAJ URS (Hunsur).—What is his opinion with regard to nationalisation of this industry? The point was: because the lands and other things belonged to the State of Mysore, there was no question of nationalisation. That was the thing pointed out by Sri Veeranna Gowdh. But the question of nationalisation here is taking over the assets and running the industry by State management as it would be a source of revenue to the Government. What does the Hon'ble Member say about this question? We want to know his considered opinion about this industry.

Sri T MARIAPPA.—I do not want to be hasty in coming to a conclusion. The Committee after a great deal of deliberation have not stated anything about nationalisation. When they have not said anything, much less could I say in a hurried fashion or in a hurried manner that we can take over the assets and work out. Many factors have to be considered; high level discussions should take place between the mining authorities and the Government. Moreover mining industry comes under Concurrent List. It is not correct on our part to come to sudden conclusions. The Government can kindly consider the whole matter and after considering all aspects of the situation, the Government may take a decision. So far as I am concerned, personally speaking, Sir, it is much better to take power to work it up and

(SRI T. MARIAPPA.)

to regulate it properly, as the Committee have put it, so that we could get more money than buy over assets which in course of a few years may prove to be very risky.

Sri K. S. VASAN.—Even in the beginning he said that he would not agree with the Committee's recommen dations.

Sri T. MARIAPPA.—We are always the owners of the mines. We are the lessor of the lessees.

Sri H. M. CHANNABASAPPA.—I would like to know at what time we are closing the debate today, because it is a very important subject of far-reaching consequence and it is better that Hon'ble Members are allowed sufficient time to express their opinion. There are many members who would like to express their opinion. I should like the indulgence of the Chair to allow more time for discussion and if it is not possible to finish it today, let us take it up tomorrow. The question of giving further time may also be considered by the Hon'ble Chair.

Mr. SPEAKER.—I would like to place before the House that owing to pressure of work, it will not be possible to continue this debate on Monday. If the Hon'ble Members agree, we can sit tomorrow at some time, but I would like to sit till One o'clock or Two o'clock and finish today. There are no two opinions regarding this Report and the conclusions arrived at by the Committee. Therefore, I think there is not much to say. But I will leave it to the members to express their opinion not covering the points which have already been covered by some other Hon'ble Members, so that they could finish their speeches within the time allotted by the House. I think, we can finish it off within Two o'clock. I think it is better to limit the time. Let us finish off this debate as early as possible.

Sri A. BHEEMAPPA NAIK.—It would have been much better if it was done earlier, Sir. We may have to reply to some of the points referred by some members. We may have to reply to Sri Sydney A. Thomas who has raised some important points. In view of this fact, it will not be good to restrict the time, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER.—I have no objection to continue the debate the next day provided the House agrees.

Sri A. BHEEMAPPA NAIK.—But there is no time. If Hon'ble Members agree to sit tomorrow, some of us have no objection. Some members have pleaded their inability to attend tomorrow. But those who do not want to attend, may not attend. Any way even if it is fixed for tomorrow, we have no objection to attend, Sir.

Sri Mulka GOVINDA REDDY.—We are as much interested as any other members in this House.

Sri H. M. CHANNABASAPPA. It is better to meet between 6 and 8-30 P.M. today.

Mr. SPEAKER.—I would like the House to meet at the appointed time.

Sri H. M. CHANNABASAPPA.—I hope the Hon'ble Members have no objection to sit this evening because of its importance. We will sit between 5 and 8 P.M. today.

Sri H. SIDDAVEERAPPA.—Sir, is it agreed to sit between 5 and 8 P.M., because earlier the proposal was to close the debate at Two o'clock and be done with it?

Sri D. DEVARAJ URS.—The subject—matter is so important that there are two views with regard to the conclusions of the Report. Some members are in a mood to suggest that this might be nationalised. Sri T. Mariappa just now pointed out that nationalisation should not be done in the interest of running and maintaining the mines. So, these are the two schools of thought and Members are interested in giving their opinion to this House. The importance of the subject is such that most of us want to speak on this subject matter. I would request the Chair either to continue the debate today after 5 o'clock or even allot time tomorrow for the consideration of this Report.

Sri H. SIDDAVEERAPPA.—If it is ultimately agreed that we will have to sit today, I would suggest, after Sri

Bheemappa Naik closes his speech, that we may meet at 3 P.M. and carry on till 5 P.M. today.

Sri H. M. CHANNABASAPPA.—We have got a Select Committee meeting at Three o'clock today. Instead of Three o'clock, Five o'clock would be all right and the debate could be carried on till such time as is necessary. . .

Mr. SPEAKER.—Are the members agreeable to sit at Five o'clock and continue the debate today ?

HON'BLE MEMBERS.—Yes, we all agree to sit at 5 P.M. today.

Mr. SPEAKER.—I request the Hon'ble Member to be very brief.

Sri A. BHEEMAPPA NAIK (Molakalmuru).—Mr. Speaker, Sir, I must at the outset thank the Government of Mysore for having set up this Committee to investigate into this very important Gold Mining Industry or the question of gold mines which mother Nature in India has given only to Mysore. This is a milch cow which was milking very well. Why it has become drought, who was responsible for it, how to make it a milch cow is the question. I must also congratulate the Committee for having given us very valuable information on Gold Mining Industry. In fact, this is a Company which is rnnning the Gold Mining Industry. I am convinced with the Report of the Committee. The Report has furnished many important factors that go towards the prosperous running of the Company. Now we know what the production cost is and how this industry could be made more economical.

Sir, from time immemorial these companies have been working in the Kolar Gold Fields with the co-operation and goodwill of both the Government of Mysore and the Gold Mining Companies. In the old administrative set-up the then Dewans of Mysore have extended their hand of co-operation to these companies and have shown all concessions and they have encouraged them to continue to be miners here. And with that end in view, perhaps, the Agreement was entered into in the year 1875. Many of my friends think that mining industry can be carried on by an Act between the Government and the miners. It is not so ; without a lease no mining industry can be carried on. Even ordinary manganese mine or iron mine or any mining is carried on only under lease. If there has been a lease, it is not as though, as my Hon'ble friend for Kolar said, that through historical influence these companies were going on without any agreement or an agreement was made on 12 annas stamp paper. It is simply the height of ignorance to say that without any lease mining can be carried on. There was the lease and we must see whether that lease is over, whether the terms of the lease have been followed or kept up. There were *bona fides* on the part of the previous Governments to have entered into some agreement. The agreement was started as long back as 1875 and the fresh lease would expire in the year 1970. Along with that, there was the Gold Duty Act and the Gold Duty was in existence ; even then there should be and there ought to be a lease deed between the contracting parties and thus there was the lease deed.

What happened in the year 1940, Sir ? Sir Mirza Ismail, the then Dewan of Mysore, tried to introduce a legislation with regard to that Industry. The Gold Duty Act was passed, as such an enactment was in force all over the world. This Act was enacted everywhere and in consonance with that, in Mysore also there was the Gold Duty Act. The price of an ounce of gold was never hundred rupees then. Therefore, the Gold Duty Act prescribed a limit of Rs. 100. This limit was prescribed because the price was anywhere between Rs. 60 and 70. So the remaining Rs. 40 would cover dividends, ayment of royalty, income-tax and every other blessed thing. Therefore, they decided that whatever price they got above Rs. 100 could be shared between them. The war had just then commenced and the prices showed an upward tendency. The then Government was shrewd enough to think that they would be getting adventitious income and that therefore

(SRI A. BHEEMAPPA NAIK.)

they should have their share of it. They were not responsible for such an adventitious income but the old conditions were responsible. Therefore they thought that it was just the time for them to see that as much as possible was got out of this adventitious income. Hence, they brought forward an Act called the Gold Duty Act. But in spite of this Gold Duty Act, these companies were working well. They got 75 per cent of the net proceeds on one ounce of gold. Later on what happened was, they went on pressing the Government of Mysore to give them some relief. At that time Sri M. A. Srinivasan was the Minister-in-charge of the Industries portfolio (now the present Chairman of the Mining Companies) ; he did not introduce the Relief Bill but the then Financial Secretary to Government did it, as the Secretaries to Government used to be members of the House. The Relief Bill was passed.

Sri H. M. CHANNABASAPPA.—Who was the Minister in-charge of Industries then ?

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Sri A. BHEEMAPPA NAIK.—At that time Sri Srinivasan was the Minister for Industries. In fact, if you go through the deliberations of these years, he has answered that they were incurring heavy losses and it was very necessary to give them relief and so on. Even then, the terms of the agreement were kept alive and there was no change at all. He went on retaining the terms of the Agreement which Sri T. Mariappa just read out. It was only just like a lease that we give to any man assuring him that we are not going to levy any more taxation. That was the position. Then what happened ? This Relief Act was brought in and according to that they got very good relief. That is up to 1948. In 1948, it was observed that the relief that was being given came to several lakhs of rupees, even up to a crore of rupees or a crore and a half. I am referring to 1948 because the new agreement came into force only in 1949. At that time, they had figures only up to 1948. The figures that are now placed before us are well drafted by the Committee. The Government of Mysore also knew some of these figures—the relief given year-wise, date of receipt and so on—so that you will see that year after year this Gold Relief Act has enabled them to take away much of the money that the Government used to get by way of Gold Duty. So, in 1949 the Government thought that the return from the mines might dwindle year after year and at that time it was also noticed that the price of gold had begun to fall and Government thought in all conscience that it might not be desirable to continue the Gold Duty Act. If you look at page 75, the cost of gold in the year 1948 was 188 and in 1949 it was 206. Now what was the Gold Duty ? If the cost of gold was below 100, 75 per cent of it or if the cost was above 100, then what was above 100 would be taken.

Mr. SPEAKER.—I do not think that was the Agreement. It was the price, not the cost.

Sri A. BHEEMAPPA NAIK.—Selling price is always higher than the cost price. If the cost price itself was 188, where was the question of 100 ? If the sale price was 100, what was above that would be taken away. Here the price was 186 and therefore there was no need to change.

Sri D. DEVARAJ URS.—During the year 1948, the selling price was 302.

Sri A. BHEEMAPPA NAIK.—It is not a question of 302. The cost price was 188 and if the sale price was 302, what was left over was 114. Even then, 98 lakhs was robbed or relief to that extent was given.

Sri H. M. CHANNABASAPPA.—When the selling price was 302 and the cost price was 188, we were entitled to get 75 per cent of over Rs. 100 of the difference between 302 and 188.

Sri A. BHEEMAPPA NAIK.—I am saying quite a different thing. When the Gold Duty Act was passed, the basis was 60. On that basis, the Gold Duty Act said : even if the selling price was 100 and the cost of production was 60,

they would still be left with 40; therefore, they fixed Rs. 100. They could argue successfully, 100 was the basis, cost price being 60. At that time the depth of the mine was only 2,000 or 4,000 or 7,000 feet. In the year 1948, the cost price was 188 and they might possibly argue,-add 40 to the cost price and fix the basis. We can argue like that. So, instead of doing away with the Gold Duty Act and also giving this huge sum of relief, they thought perhaps, in future years, the price of gold might come down just as it has come down to 225.

Sri Mulka GOVINDA REDDY.—Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the notice of this Hon'ble House, the important clause in the Mysore Gold Duty Act of 1940, which says:

> "Duty on every ounce of gold shall be three-fourths of the amount by which it exceeds one hundred rupees."

The question of cost price does not come here at all.

Sri A. BHEEMAPPA NAIK.—That is what I am trying to argue, Sir. The cost price does not come here at all. Whatever be the price, we sell the article with some margin. Because of the adventitious circumstance, they have got a higher margin and this margin was far in excess of what would be required to cover expenditure.

He did not know that there was the Draft Constitution referred to by Sri Pattabhiraman and that the new Constitution was to come into effect on the 26th January and that they should have kept the *status quo*. I want to argue and say that this Gold Duty Act is something different from income-tax. Because, if it was income-tax, that would have gone to the Central Revenues. Even out of that income-tax the State is getting a share and we must not forget at this stage that the State is entitled under the Financial Integration arrangements to about 300 lakhs and the State actually got this year 346 lakhs. Even in the case of gold duty if the Central Government had taken away the Gold Duty, a portion of it would have surely come back to the State in some way or other. That is the point that I want Hon'ble Members to bear in mind. That there was no possibility of our getting back all the money directly into our hands, was perhaps one of the considerations at that time. In addition, there was the other consideration, *viz.*, the likelihood of the prices coming down. So perhaps they thought that by some change in the arrangement, they might enter into a partnership and that would be better in the interest of the State. It might have been their *bona fide* belief. But it is a mistake of fact and in the results achieved, perhaps their expectations have not been realised partly due to their being. . . .

Mr. SPEAKER.—I think that point has been answered by Sri T. Mariappa. We shall come to the point. There is no time.

Sri A. BHEEMAPPA NAIK.—Sir, I am concluding without delay. What has been happening after that is what I am talking about. I want to read the very first clause of the agreement which has been entered into. It states :

> " Now this Deed witnesseth and it is hereby agreed as follows :
>
> The lessee will take all possible action to see that working costs are kept low by enforcing economy wherever possible."

That was the very first clause. But what is it that is being done now? They have kept up the costs. The Government of Mysore were very anxious to see that greater benefits should accrue to the State and to the people of Mysore and therefore with this *bona fide* intention they entered into this agreement. But can we see such *bona fide* intention on the side of the other contracting party to keep to the solemn terms that have been put into this agreement? In spite of the understanding to keep the cost as low as possible and enforce all possible economies, what is happening is, it is simply going up without any abatement. Is this the way of keeping to the promise made in this agreement? That is what I want to point out.

(SRI A. BHEEMAPPA NAIK.)

The Government of Mysore, immediately after entering into the agreement, had to appoint a Director and an Accountant. The second clause reads :

> "The Lessees agree that they will continue to keep in view the longevity of the mines as the guiding consideration and shall as far as possible adopt the policy of working low grade ore."

Have they defined 'low grade ore'; What is the definition of this low grade ore ? They may interpret this expression to subserve their best interests. If this had been defined at the beginning, we might have accepted or we might not have accepted. The objects were to take up developmental activity on the one side and promote longevity on the other side and get revenue to the State and keep up economy and, more than everything else, effect Indianisation. What is it that they have done ? Of course it is provided that:

> "The account of the Lessees in respect of the working of the mines shall be subject to local audit by a duly qualified staff to be appointed by Government from time to time. The cost of this local audit staff shall be a charge on the revenue account of the Lessees."

Here are some clauses which you cannot find in the previous leases, on which we ought to congratulate the previous Government for putting them into the Agreement.

Sri H. SIDDAVEERAPPA.—What I said then was in other countries the mine was worked by the owners mostly, but here a lessee is working the mine. There are some private parties who are owners of some mines. As owners they work the mines.

Sri A. BHEEMAPPA NAIK.—Here we are not working the mine. Here the Company is working the mine.

Sri P. R. RAMAIYA.—I want to understand one point. He says in other countries the owners work the mines and in India the Company is given the lease. But I would like to know : is there not a similar law in other countries ? There is a mine in a particular land. Is not royalty paid to the Government ? Therefore, to that extent, the ownership is affected because in any part of the world when any mine is worked, royalty is paid. 'Royalty' implies that there is no absolute ownership of any company which works the mines.

Sri H. SIDDAVEERAPPA.—It requires a little clarification too. Take the analogy of the Land Revenue Code. In the Land Revenue Code it is said that every holder is the owner of the property ; but, nevertheless don't forget that all lands in any country belong to the State. But this kind of ownership has certain incidence attached to it. If I am the owner of the land, I will have to utilise it and use it and nothing prevents the State Government at any time from having any dominion over that property. Of course, in some countries it is justiceable but nevertheless the ownership is there. Land owners are occupants of the land. Even then in those countries, the Government have full control under various Acts over the working of the mines; also they do expect a lion's share for the State.

Sri A. BHEEMAPPA NAIK.—I was just saying about the dominion over these mines. Even in Bellary if there is any metallic wealth in any land, the owner of that land is at liberty, without applying to the Government, to have dominion over it and start mining whereas in Mysore nobody has the right without the permission of the Government, even in his own land ; he will have to apply and get a licence. That is the position. That is not the question here. Here we are the mine owners. All the mines in K.G.F. belong to the Government, to the people of Mysore. The lessees came in here and they wanted developmental activity and all that, not when they got income to the tune of 100-125 per cent ; they wanted to drain every little gold that was available there ; they wanted even to kill the goose that laid the golden eggs and get away. Now after 1940 or 1945 we wanted to develop this ; we wanted to do this and we wanted to do that; we wanted 15 per cent of the net income to

be left over for developmental activities. In order to see that this goose that was laying the golden egg was kept on alive and kicking, we wanted to give all concessions. What has happened is, they made it a lame duck and they said that the duck is no more alive, but they are working from everywhere trying to take out from the same lame duck the golden egg. For all purposes they removed the coolies and asked them to get away because they wantd even what they were giving to the Indians in the shape of wages; even that was saved. They wanted to work from everywhere and take out whatever they could get from there, perhaps with the object of seeing that all this was depleted as soon as possible and everything taken away, bag and baggage. I feel that this must have been the only consideration for these covenanted servants being given higher salaries, being given pensionary contributions and pensions earned during the Sterling Company's time. Is that correct: is that morally right and even legally? I feel they ought to answer legally. Men who risked their lives at 10,000 feet deep, men who gave up their lives and every thing else for getting them this hoard—they are not benefited. It is a white man whom they have brought from there to be fed here. Their object is not only to feed themselves overseas but to feed those that have come here from overseas and to fatten them. If that was not the thing, what was the object in appointing one blooming day an officer for watch and ward and saying after 5 years 'we have appointed one.' Is this Indianisation? They had at no time the interests of India at heart. We drove them away and said: "You cannot administer us; you can no longer be here. You brought about all miseries, you made us scape-goats in the eyes of others and took away everything." But still their looting has not completely stopped. Here they are sitting and trying to play a hide-and-seek game. They are trying to break the law and still they say they are law-abiding people. Why did they pay so much for pensionary contributions? They say it is because those people alone are capable of finding out the streak of gold that goes this side and that side. Lakshmi is very elusive. To get that Lakshmi and carry her away beyond the seas we are employing those people, paying them heavily. Is that necessary; is that correct? My friend was just saying that they ought to be paid very heavily, that they ought to be given pensionary contributions, because they are the people who undertook this risky venture. Don't others risk? Has not Mr. Thomas risked? Did not his uncle lose his leg? What is the pensionary contribution to them? Why did they not think of these people? I do not mind if we cannot work the mine. As somebody observed, it is a wasting asset. A blade of grass grows after a shower, but here no grass grows. Once a tola is taken away, we lose it for ever. Is it to get Rs. 31,000 at the end of one year that we should give all this? But still they want to attack the Hon'ble Members and say that they are the nominees of the Government and that their views may have been influenced by their being nominees. Whose nominees are they? I do not know why they cast aspersion on this Committee when the Committee after deliberation have found out whether this is a correct accounting at all, whether the correct cost is found here. Because they have known this, we do not know what is going to happen. The Chairman of course is an Indian. What is the salary that he is paid? He gets about Rs. 14,000—Rs. 10,000 *plus* this, *plus* that and *plus* what not and at this rate how do you expect us to get anything? With due deference to Sri Mariappa, who defended so forcibly, if they had only said in clause I "keep it as low as possible and lower than what it is to-day. . . ."

SRI T. MARIAPPA.—My big brother is misrepresenting me. I wanted merely to defend the agreement entered into in 1949 under the circumstances then prevailing. Often my big brother wields his stick.

SRI A. BHEEMAPPA NAIK.—If only my friend were shrewd enough he could have added a clause here in the agreement which is so wisely drafted. Why did he not put in a word in 1949 itself and say "The Lessee will take all

(SRI A. BHEEMAPPA NAIK.)

possible action to see that the working costs are kept low by enforcing economy wherever possible lower than what it is to-day or not going beyond the working cost.'' If that was the agreement to-day, we would have snatched every pie from their hands. That has not been there. Again, you said 'convert it into a Rupee Company.'' You stopped there. You thought long enough, but finally you said that conversion of Sterling into Rupees is not making it Indian. Two Directors from there, two Directors from here, two Directors from there—all the six are in one Company. Again the same thing repeats. Two from there; two from here—all the four Companies are being managed by the same 7 or 8 Directors and what does each Director, get ? He gets per sitting perhaps to the tune of Rs. 700 to 800. How do you expect any profit to come about here and how do you expect that we could get that royalty? This is the kind of expenditure that they are incurring. Perhaps the best brain of the country in India does not get so much. Even the Prime Minister of India does not get one-fourth of what the Chairman of this Company gets. How do you expcet us to get proper royalty ? Is there no control over all this ? Can they still do this kind of thing ?

M. SPEAKER.—Why did not the Government get particulars about the salaries of officers and publish the same in the Report ? Why were they not published ?

Sri H. SIDDAVEERAPPA.—That information has not yet been made available to Government. The fact is that we have tried to pump out as much information as possible. For some reason or other, the information is not forthcoming, though non-officially and officially I know many more things.

12-30 P.M.

Sri A. BHEEMAPPA NAIK—When they revealed us the salaries, my Hon'ble friend, the Minister for Industries asked them to give the names of the shareholders. There was a reply to this effect: ''That information is not available with us: it is in the United Kingdom Registrar's Office; if you still want it, tell us the purpose for which you want and if you pay the fees to be paid for that, we will think of getting that information.'' Is this the way of co-operation for all that we did and for all that our previous administrators did for them ? Is this the return we expect from them ? I do not agree with the Committee when they suggest that the royalty may be increased from 5 to 10 per cent. Of what use is that ? If we are getting Rs. 31,000 today, it will come to Rs. 62,000.

Mr. SPEAKER.—It is not 5 per cent increase in the royalty. They want to double the royalty.

Sri A. BHEEMAPPA NAIK.—What will we get ? What is the net income we get ?

Sri H. SIDDAVEERAPPA.—The basic royalty on an average we get Rs. 20 lakhs per year. Rs. 31,000 to which the Hon'ble Member is referring is the contribution out of the surplus after working out the formula, as has been agreed to in the Deed of Variation. The basic royalty is there. That is separate.

Sri A. BHEEMAPPA NAIK.—If today we get Rs. 31,000, tomorrow we will get Rs. 62,000. They have said that it will be changed from 5 per cent to 10 per cent. They say it cannot be worked, and they will have to incur loss. If loss is incurred there is no question of getting contribution. When they incur loss how can they work and how can we get royalty ?

Mr. SPEAKER.—They are sure to incur loss with increased salary and increased expenditure.

Sri A. BHEEMAPPA NAIK.—So long as they keep up these high salaries, they will be like Rajadhirajas; their pensionary contribution and everything else have doubled and even trebled. As soon as they found that they have to pay heavily under this Partnership Act, they thought that instead of benefiting the partner their servants might eat and their employees might eat. So, they have gone on giving whatever they wanted and fattened

them. Now, they say that they are not capable of giving 10 per cent royalty.

Sri H. SIDDAVEERAPPA.—I may also state that something is given voluntarily, unasked, that is the pensionary contribution.

Sri A. BHEEMAPPA NAIK.—Why did they not think of the poor people who every day in and day out go down 10,000 feet, day. Why was there no sympathy for them ? Was it only for the white man that they have sympathy ? What is it that we should do when they broke this clause deliberately ? They say that they cannot Indianise because there was no efficient man to do the job. We are more efficient than many of them because in the administrative set-up what they have not been able to do for centuries we have done; we have built the Nangal Project ; we have produced electricity without their aid ; we have done many more things which they did not imagine. So far as our capacity is concerned, I am definitely of the opinion that we have the required personnel. What do these big officers who have come from abroad over here do except giving direction ? The actual worker is the follower of Sri Vasan. He is today prepared to do it; he is prepared to sacrifice much more if it is Indianised. If the workers feel that it is theirs, they will do it because if they earn, it will be theirs and if they do not earn, they will suffer. Where the white man used to walk in the dizzy heights of Diana, today you will be walking about as if it is yours. Therefore, I feel that our people will be able to work much better under such circumstances.

Mr. SPEAKER.—May I request the Hon'ble Member to confine his remarks only to the Report because he is likely to forget himself ?

Sri A. BHEEMAPPA NAIK.—I am referring to inferences drawn out of the Report. Sri Mariappa said that we will be treading the forbidden hazardous path if we have to nationalise the industry. He is not bold enough to say 'nationalise'. I must tell him that last year when the same subject was debated, I said 'let us nationalise this industry'.

Sri T. MARIAPPA.—I do not see any extra virtue in nationalising provided we get what we want by other means.

Sri A. BHEEMAPPA NAIK.—I am saying we can get much more than what we want. We do not employ a person on Rs. 14,000 as Chairman ; we do not employ persons on Rs. 3,000 as our Superintendents.

Mr. SPEAKER.—With their help it will not be possible to reduce expenditure. Even with the best of agreement you will not be able to get the desired benefit. That is what the Hon'ble Member is saying.

ಶ್ರೀ ಎಚ್. ಎಂ. ಚನ್ನಬಸಪ್ಪ.—ನ್ಯಾಷನಲೈಸ್ ಮಾಡುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಒಪ್ಪಂದ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವುದೇ ಫಸ್ಟ್ ಸ್ಟೆಪ್ ಎಂದು ಶ್ರೀಮಾನ್ ಮರಿಯಪ್ಪನವರು ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಶ್ರೀ ಟಿ. ಮರಿಯಪ್ಪ.—ಸರಿಯಾಗಿ ವರ್ಕ್‌ಮಾಡಿದರೆ ನ್ಯಾಷನಲೈಸ್ ಮಾಡಿದರೆ ಹೇಗೆ ಮಾಡಬಹುದೋ ಹಾಗೆ ಮಾಡಲು ಸರ್ವಾಧಿಕಾರವಿದ್ದೇ ಇದೆ.

ಶ್ರೀ ಎ. ಭೀಮಪ್ಪನಾಯಕ್.—ಶೇಕಡ 20ರಷ್ಟು ಡಿಪ್ರೀಸಿಯೇಷನ್ ತೆಗೆಯುತ್ತಾ ಹೋದರೆ ಮೂರು ವರ್ಷದಿಂದ ಇರುವ ಮೆಷಿನರಿಯುಳ್ಳೇನಿರುತ್ತದೆ? ಕಲ್ಲು ಕುಟ್ಟುವ ಒನಕೆಯಿದ್ದರೂ ಮೂರು ವರ್ಷದಿಂದ ಕುಟ್ಟಿಕೊಂಡು ಬಂದಿದ್ದಾರೆ. More than anything alse, whether we have the personnel and whether we are capable of managing the affair is the question we have to consider. There is a glamour still that the European would manage much better.

Sri T. MARIAPPA.—Nobody has put forward that argument.

Sri A. BHEEMAPPA NAIK.—That is why I am saying that with all the risk involved it is better that we nationalise it. Some people say : "After the mine is worked out what shall we do? If they close the mine earlier what shall we do ?" This lease will be made up by some other mine being worked up. There is a new mine called Nandidrug West Reef. They themselves have said that it is a new mine and they should be allowed to work it up. From this Report we are not in a position to know how much of low grade ore is worked up, and how much of longevity is kept up. So, if that is not assured, if Indianisation is not assured, if this overburdening is continued, what is it that we should do ?

(SRI A. BHEEMAPPA NAIK.)

The only alternative is to get the mine worked by ourselves. Otherwise, let the Managing Agents of this Company come forward and say : "Here we are prepared to work like friends; forget the old scar; let us work up the mine." I am sure, the Government of Mysore would welcome such a move. What I am saying is that the time has come for us to see that this kind of fraud, to say the least, is put an end to. They have played a fraud on the public funds of Mysore. What we ought to do is to stop it at once. The previous Government entered with all the *bona fides* into the lease; but for over a year they never appointed the Accountant or the Director. What happened actually was, until the Rupee Company was installed in Mysore, they could not enter into correspondence with that Company and look into the accounts. The time given for converting it into Rupee Company was until December 1950. After that, due to the procrastinating policy of the previous Government as to whom they should appoint, they delayed for two years.

Sri T. MARIAPPA.—My friend may talk after looking into the facts.

Sri A. BHEEMAPPA NAIK.—You were telling us that in 1949 you entered into an agreement. . . .

Sri T. MARIAPPA.—You cannot appoint the Director to a Sterling Company but you can do it only in respect of the Rupee Company.

Sri A. BHEEMAPPA NAIK.—Even with respect to Sterling Company, we have a right to do that. That is why I say you were not wise enough to put that thing in the agreement. We grant you all *bona fides*. But we also at the same time say you committed some mistakes which you ought to own.

Sri H. SIDDAVEERAPPA.—It is always easy to be wise after the events.

Sri A. BHEEMAPPA NAIK.—I do agree we ought to take a lesson. We will be wise hereafter to see that proper check and control are exercised on them if they want to continue here; for every pie that they spend over and above what was spent before, they ought to show us that it is inevitable and that the expenditure was in the interest of better working of the mine. Unless they show that, we should not allow any extra expenditure hereafter. We should give more powers to our accountants there, more powers to our directors there. With regret, I will have to observe that when our Director, an Hon'ble Member of this House, Sri Huchmasthy Gowda asked for some accounts, one of the responsible officers of the Company dared enough to say that he could not ask for such accounts and he has no business to look into those things. Sir, is it the way in which the representative of the Government of Mysore ought to be treated ? Under these circumstances, what are we to do ? Is the Gentlemen's Agreement adhered to ? Look at this clause 3. There is complete power over them. We can look into and check the accounts. But still they say that they do not allow us to look into their accounts. That is something which we cannot brook. We should not allow this kind of thing to go on. Anyway, there are two alternatives left open to us. One is for them to enter into a proper agreement and work up the mines as Managing Agents of these Companies, as they are working now ; let them be Managing Agents for ourselves also and let them be our partners in the new agreement and let us be partners in the profit; should they not look to our interests also ? In order to see that they look to our interests, we must have our own check ; we must find out the *bona fides*. Let them be our Managing Agents and let them show their *bona fides*. Sir, if that does not happen, if an honourable agreement is not arrived at, the only alternative course left is to take it over. Unless the present expenditure is decreased, we will not be in a position to share any profit.

Mr. SPEAKER.—I do not think you will be able to change the course of events now and enter into a new agreement.

Sri A. BHEEMAPPA NAIK.—It is not difficult. If we enter into a new agreement, immediately we can remove the Chairman getting Rs. 14,000 salary and have a man with a moderate salary and thus reduce the expenditure. I

am sure that in Mysore we have many persons who will be most willing to work even with perhaps 1/14th of that salary and they can work better. After all. the work of the Chairman does not require so much of brain. (*Laughter*).

Sri T. MARIAPPA.—It requires brain; it does not require so much money. (*Laughter*).

Sri A. BHEEMAPPA NAIK.—Well Sir, I modify because my friend says it requires brain.

Sri H. SIDDAVEERAPPA.—Sir, if my friend yields for a minute I will say a word of explanation on some points raised by him. This Rupee Company was formed in Mysore in December 1950. They took over the control of the mines on 1st April 1951. Government notified their intention of appointing their first Director and nominated the first Director in August 1950. Although his nomination was intimated to them, there was intermediate correspondence and finally the Board of Directors approved of the Government nomination on 5th April 1951. This new Agreement that we have entered into came into force on 6th May 1951 in the case of Mysore and Champion Mines and in the case of the other two mines, namely, the Oorgaum and Nandidroog Mines on 7th May 1951. The Government Auditor was posted on 1st March 1952 and he actually commenced the audit work in May 1952. A word of explanation appears to be necessary. As I understand from the records, there was some delay in the appointment of this Government Auditor. During this interim period, the Audit Department was with the Centre and there was a bifurcation of the branches. After the Accounts and Audit was taken away by the Centre, until the Mysore Unit was formed, there appeared to be some delay. Anyway, the fact appears that the Government Auditor went to the scene in the month of May 1952 and from that time onwards we were able to find out what exactly was happening in the internal management of the mines. This is all what I have to say by way of a factual explanation.

Sri A. BHEEMAPPA NAIK.—So, that is the position, Sir. Then, Sir, they have done certain other acts which amount to violation, that is, knowing full well that they had very heavy assets overseas, they did not reveal this to the Government of Mysore. That is why, the then Minister for Finance and Industries said: "Perhaps, there are only a few chairs and benches." This shows that when they entered into an agreement, they deliberately tried to keep back the assets which were so essential for the growth and well-being of the industry and for the proper working of this new agreement. They have kept back certain information, perhaps surreptitiously I must say, because when they transferred all their assets, they have taken $1\frac{1}{2}$ times the value from the Rupee Company. Does this not form part of the agreement? If that was not the thing how could they appreciate the assets and take $1\frac{1}{2}$ times the value? On the other hand it should have been depreciated. How they valued the assets God only knows! The reserve fund was not ours; the depreciation fund was not ours. Then there was the pension scheme to persons from the beginning of their entry into service. Is that a liability that we should welcome? Under these circumstances, is not this agreement void? If that is so, do they deserve all the compensation that we have to pay to them for the value of the machinery? We do not want the shares. Let that very Company go in search of gold elsewhere. Let us shake hands and let them honourably go. Or, let them work as our partners, honest partners, and see that the coffers of Mysore are filled, as their coffers are already filled. This is all my observation, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER.—Now the House will rise and meet at Five of the Clock today.

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*The House adjourned at Fifty-five Minutes past Twelve of the Clock and reassembled at Fifteen Minutes part Five of the Clock the same day.*

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[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair.]

Sri K. S. VASAN.—Sir, I am in entire agreement with this Report

(Sri K. S. VASAN.)

subject of course to the note that I have submitted. That note is only to support the conclusions of this Committee. I have not differed from any of the recommendations of this Committee. Before I deal with this, I assure you, Sir, that I will not report what has been said, particularly after the most forceful way in which the Report has been presented to this House by the Hon'ble the Minister for Industries. I fully endorse what has been said in support of the recommendations. In fact, as one representing the vast majority of the workers in Kolar Gold Fields, I can assure you, Sir, that the labourers working in Kolar Gold Fields are really pleased with this Report and their recommendations as they rightly feel that most of the points found in this Report and most of the recommendations in fact were the demands of the Kolar Gold Fields for the past several years. Ever since 1942-43 the workers of the Kolar Gold Fields mines have been agitating for more and more strict control by the Government over these Mining Companies and for immediate nationalisation of this great national asset. In fact in 1949 when the Mysore Duty on Gold Act was repealed and an agreement was entered into with the Mining Companies, it was for the first time that the Kolar Gold Fields workers protested against that agreement and even warned that the Government were committing a mistake in agreeing to some of the terms of the Mining Companies. There cannot be any doubt, Sir, with regard to this fact that most of the very important and vital terms of the agreement have been observed more in the breach by the Mining Compainies and they can never prove that they have implemented these terms. Particularly, Sir, that agreement was entered in the interest of the mines and it was stated to ensure the longevity of the mines and the important term of the agreement pertaining to that was clause 2 stating that the Mining Companies would as far as possible work only low grade ore. Even now for low grade ores the Mining Companies say, it is only 'payable ore' and it can be found that they have not reduced the grade of the ore ever since that agreement was entered into and in fact have taken all measures to work only the highest grade of ore in some of the mines; they have taken advantage of the situation arising out of that agreement and increased the tonnage, increased the production and by increasing the salaries, allowances and the terminal benefits of the covenanted non-Indian Officers they have not only deprived the State Government of the due revenue but have also denied the legitimate claims of the workers of the Kolar Gold Fields.

The very important next term in that agreement is with regard to the Indianisation of the personnel. They want us to believe that simply because there is an Iyengar—Indian as the Chairman of Mining Co., and a sprinkling of a few more Iyengars or some other Indians there in some of the posts which are not key posts in the mining operations, they have implemented at least to some extent that term of that agreement. I can speak with authority on this without any fear of contradiction that many of the Indians they have promoted—at least some of them—are more Romans than Romans themselves—more loyal than the King! Just because there is some Indian in some post, we cannot take it that it is all Indianised. They do not have any voice in shaping the policy of these Mining Companies. They do not plan production. And Sri M. A. Sreenivasan, Chairman of the Board of Management, as you know, was a Minister in the Mysore Government, when the Government was not a National Government, nor people's Government. He happens to be the Chairman of these Companies which are not Indian companies nor Indianised companies.

With regard to the other clauses undertaking to keep the cost of production low, they have really done everything to increase the cost. Somehow in some places it is felt that they could have to some extent avoided paying some increased dearness allowance to the workers. It is wrong. In fact, they have only increased the dearness

allowance after a number of committees set up by this very same Government to enquire into the conditions of the Kolar Gold Fields workers' conditions and they made recommendations for the increase in their wages and dearness allowance, but then the Mining Companies refused to implement them. In the year 1950 there was a Commission appointed by this Government in which the Hon'ble Members Sri K. Pattabhiraman and Sri V. Venkatappa were appointed to serve as members of this House. In 1950-51 there was a Committee to fix the minimum wage for Kolar Gold Fields workers on which Committee the Hon'ble Member Sri Imam was serving as member. Both these Committees came to the unanimous conclusion that the Kolar Gold Fields worker was not in receipt of the bare minimum wage for any industrial worker and they recommended that the minimum wage for the workers should be at least Re. 1 per day which comes to Rs. 26 per month. Even this the Companies did not implement. It is only recently, as a result of the Central Government Industrial Tribunal award that the wages have been increased. In the year 1951 the dearness allowance was slightly increased but the main increase in the expenditure was due to the fact that the Mining Companies revised a number of times the scales of pay and dearness allowances of their covenanted non-Indian officers and voluntarily gave to the pension fund in 1951, made the Indian Companies accept the liability for the past services of such officers and paid about 40 lakhs of rupees to the pension fund which they constituted then.

Mr. SPEAKER.—Does the pension benefit date back even prior to 1945 ?

Sri K. S. VASAN.—Yes, Sir. It was constituted in the year 1951 and it covers the services rendered prior to 1951 and the Indian Companies were made to pay for that also. Not only did they increase the salaries and allowances and constitute this pension fund, but lakhs of rupees are also said to have been sent on certain items which even though we are there, are unable to see at all. They are spending lakhs of rupees on maintaining buildings; 40 per cent of the cost of buildings is spent every year ever since 1951 for maintenance of these buildings. Lakhs of rupees are said to be spent on welfare and we do not see any such welfare activities or amenities for the workers these, ever since they began to spend on welfare items. They show these things in their accounts and if one should believe their accounts one should accept that they are really running under loss. But, Sir, we of the trade union movement in Kolar Gold Fields have strongly registered our protest against such accounts and we have been refusing to believe their accounts. I can here also state that some of these items cannot be believed at all and all these things have been there only to show that there is very little surplus to be shared with the Government, So, it may be to the dislike of some if I say that the Government that entered into an agreement with these Mining Companies have done a blunder and they have thoughtlessly done an act. They entered into an agreement not knowing with whom they are dealing and what the terms were. I am not questioning the patriotism of those gentlemen. But it is not enough if you have only patriotic intentions. We must see also the result of such actions. Now in 1955 the Government is deprived of their due revenue and the workers are not paid their due wages and the Mining Companies after the conclusion of that agreement have threatened and closed down one mine as a result of which thousands of workers have lost their jobs. Now, we find our mistake and we enquire into the conditions and we want to take suitable action to see that the Government do not lose what is due to them. They are again threatening to close down another mine. As far as I have understood, the closing down of a mine means for them winding up a company and then coming forward with a request to the Government to transfer the lease of that mine to some other company of theirs in the Kolar Gold Fields. So, this threat of closure of mine will work only with those who are not prepared to work

(SRI K. S. VASAN.)

and who hesitate to take over the mine and work it themselves. That is why I have been urging that this Government should be bold and I feel that the recommendations ought to have been more drastic. We must tell the Management that if they are not prepared to work here according to the terms we prescribe, they may quit soon. Some Hon'ble Members feel that if it is a question of nationalisation, we may not be able to take over all their assets and pay them huge sums. It will not be in the interests of the nation to pay such huge sums at this stage of the industry. Why should we pay them at all? They have taken 20 times the invested capital by way of dividends alone, and they have taken so many times their invested capital in other respects. What about the depreciation of the machinery? They can now give it away for scrap and their book value of the machinery is almost nil. They simply say so many thousands of rupees or lakhs of rupees. We need not pay them at all. Even if the Constitution guarantees the payment of some compensation it only guarantees some reasonable compensation. We can fix up some reasonable compensation and pay them and ask them to quit.

Regarding the technical personnel, whether it would be available for us to run the mines or not, what I say is that, if they chose to remain here and work the mines on our own terms, they may continue as the servants of the nation. But they shall not be allowed to remain here as masters. They are running the industry only on profit motive and whenever they say "longevity of the mines", they mean the longer period for which they would wish to continue their profits just as they are earning all these years. They think that the interest of the industry is the interest of the shareholders only and some members are suggesting, including my Hon'ble friend Sri Thomas, that we must reasonably ask them to come here and talk over matters across the table and come to a reasonable settlement. Messrs. John Taylor & Sons are such people. Let us not think of individuals—it is British capital. Sir, we know that British capital anywhere in the world has not been sympathetic to anybody and does not care for the interest of the nation wherever they have invested their capital. The history of the Kolar Gold Fields Mines shows on a smaller scale the history of the British Imperialism in India. To talk over matters with them, I am afraid, Sir, if we are not very clever, we will be committing another blunder. I know already there is an indication that the Management would be prepared after all these things—they are still trying to move the Central Government and some of us not to bring up discussion here,—to sit across the table and agree to share whatever is there. I feel they could come forward and say: "We are prepared for the revision."

5-30 P.M.

If we approach them only with this idea of getting a few rupees by way of revenues, we will be committing another blunder. We must not ignore the recommendations of this Committee that the industry is a national asset and it should be treated as such and it should be worked as such and we will have to work this industry in the best interests of the nation, in the best interests of this Government, in the best interests of those workers who are miners there and if that is the prime consideration, then Indianisation is the next question with regard to which the recommendation of the Committee is there and we must see that the Government also takes the initiative to send some of our able technicians abroad, and also in our own country in some other places they could be properly trained. We should require the Companies to select Indian officers and get them trained so that they might be ready within 4 or 5 years to take over the mines and run the mines themselves. But if there is any hitch, if there is no reasonable settlement and the companies threaten to go away leaving the entire thing, let them go and there are a number of countries in the world where experts in

deep mining are available and they would be quite willing to come here and help us as they are doing in building steel plants, etc. in other places in India.

Lastly, while it is justifiable and understandable that Government should expect more revenues from this industry, particularly from an industry of this type, let us not forget that the very basis of these revenues is the well-being of the workers who are there. Sri Thomas was trying to move all the members by saying that his father-in-law was killed in the mine and his uncle was maimed and somebody else was incapacitated. I do not know how many of the members of this House know the fact that, if we take the figures, the number of persons killed in accidents—the widowed women and orphaned children and incapacitated men in Kolar Gold Fields for the past several years,—it will run into tens of thousands. Until very recently, they had sub-human standards. In 1950 and 1951 they got a little rise in dearness allowance and now, as a result of the award of the Central Government's Industrial Tribunal, they have got the minimum wage of one rupee and even against that, the Mining Company has gone in appeal. If it is not out of place, I can tell this House that the workers there are on general strike for the implementation of the Award of the Industrial Tribunal.

Mr. SPEAKER.—What is the minimum wage and the maximum wage paid to the workers there ?

Sri K. S. VASAN.—For a daily rated workman, the minimum wage now is one rupee for an unskilled surface worker and Rs. 1-4-0 for an unskilled underground worker. The maximum for an unskilled worker according to the award is Rs. 1-4-0 at the surface and Rs. 1-8-0 underground. The cost of living in Kolar Gold Fields is as high as in Bangalore. Yet, the workers in well-establised industrial concerns here, in the Binny Mills, the Raja Mill and the Minerva Mill get even now more than what the Kolar Gold Fields workers get in respect of dearness allowance. If we are really serious in seeing that this industry should be treated as a national asset and if we do not get cheated again by Messrs. John Taylor & Sons who are here not for any humanitarian purpose but only to take as much as they want, we must be firm in our resolve. They have already taken enough and swindled more. The Chief Minister was saying that we should not use such words here. I do not know how else I can characterise the looting and robbery carried on in Kolar Gold Fields for the past 80 years. It appears to me that the only way open to us, and the effective method to prevent all these abuses, is to straightway legislate, take over the concerns and run them as a national asset. Mere appointment of some Governmental nominees on the Board of Management is of no use at all. I would request the Hon'ble Member Sri Huchmasthi Gowda who was for some time Director, to state his own experience when he was there as a member of the Board of Management. I would suggest therefore that, as it is the policy of the Government now to associate organized labour with the management of industrial concerns, Kolar Gold Fields Trade Unions also are of age now and they may be associated with the Board of Management and the Government should more and more rely on the workers and the other labouring technical personnel than on the Management alone for the revenues of the State.

Finally, I only hope that the justified anxiety on the part of the Government for augmenting their revenues from Kolar Gold Fields Mines should not under any circumstance be allowed to come in the way of the revenues being used either by the Government or by the Mining Companies for raising the living standards of those who labour, that is, workers. I appeal to all members to wholeheartedly support this Report and strengthen the hands of the Government to take a bold stand with regard to Kolar Gold Fields Mines. Thank you.

Sri V. M. MASCARENHAS (St. John's Hill).—My first duty is to

(SRI V. M. MASCARENHAS.)

thank the members of this Committee for their very valuable Report and also the Minister for Industries for elucidating yesterday afternoon for nearly three hours the substance of this Report in unmistakable terms. In my opinion, I feel that the first mistake committed by the Government was in entering into an Agreement with these Mining Companies in 1949 in the way they have done To say the least, I call that Agreement unhappy and unwise. If in the year 1900, that far-sighted and venerable statesman Sir K. Seshadri Aiyar thought it best that the Government of Mysore should have nothing to do with the net surplus or net profit of a Company, nay, when he denied even taking a sliding scale on declared dividends, it is very strange that 50 years later the Government not only gave up that policy, a policy which had stood in good stead for 50 years, and entered into a new agreement of which the main sum and substance was the phrase 'net surplus'. I would like to tell the House as to how the Agreement begins. I think many have already read it. The preamble to the Agreement reads as follows :

> "Whereas the Lessees have agreed that in consideration of the Government of Mysore repealing the existing Gold Duty Act they will pay to the Lessors a contribution based on profits . . . ."

It is clear therefore from that one statement that the Government of Mysore definitely hoped for a revenue and the Mining Companies on their part indirectly promised that once the Gold Duty was repealed, the Government of Mysore would not be denied their proper share or their quantum of profit in the shape of net surplus. We now come to the first item of the Agreement:

> "The Lessees will take all possible action to see that working costs are kept low by enforcing economy wherever possible."

This sentence has special significance in the year 1949. It is unfortunate that the Government of the time did not wish to add to that one sentence a phrase to say "working expenses", as understood in the year 1949. Otherwise, this sentence has no meaning and it is exactly what the Mining Companies have taken advantage of to-day, because to-day they turn round and say that their working expenses are as low as possible, while actually they are 63 per cent higher than in 1949. Legally, the Mining Companies are in perfect justification to say so but morally the Government of Mysore can turn round and say that the spirit of the Agreement is not only vitiated but it has been nullified. Sri Thomas said this morning in trying to appeal to the House that we should not in the interests of the workers and the mines themselves take a very hostile or unfriendly attitude to the mines. He went on saying that if out of a total revenue of Rs. 150 lakhs, 146 lakhs which was workers' wages bill was deducted, there was left for the Government of Mysore a bare Rs. 4 lakhs which would not be enough to meet the 5 per cent extra duty of the royalty which the Government will levy. But he forgot to tell us why suddenly in 1950 the Mining Companies in spite of their promises to the Government of Mysore thought of accentuating every item of expenditure, beginning from the pension fund, increase of salaries to the covenanted staff, increase of salaries to their workers. Well, I am not at all against the workers being given a living wage. Everybody knows that what the worker at Kolar Gold Fields gets is hardly a living wage. I know from the early days of 1910, over a number of years, and I know in the year 1939, 1940 and during the war when the Mining Companies were minting money as it were, the workers at Kolar Gold Fields were given bare 8 annas for a surface worker and 9 annas for an underground worker, a worker who is not sure of seeing the morning if he goes down in the pit in night. If this is the heartless way in which the Mining Companies have treated these workers while the declared dividends have ranged from 22 to 150 per cent, how suddenly in 1950 these

Mining Companies became generous, very considerate, humanitarian, the reasons are obvious. The only motive was not the love for the workers, it was to see how best they could reduce the revenues going to the Mysore Government under that peculiar phrase 'net surplus'. As we now see, it has been exemplified and my own feeling in the matter is, the Companies knew exactly what was in store when in 1949 the Government of Mysore accepted this Agreement. I will not enter into the details because already two days have passed. I only wish to say this. What is the next thing to be done? That is far more important. One thing is very clear. The Committee has made a recommendation. It is open for this House to accept it or not. From the trend of the talk for the last two days I have seen that members have unanimously said that the mere recommendation of the Committee, namely, increase of the gold duty from 5 to 10 per cent does not solve the problem and may not take the Government of Mysore very far. I fully believe in that attitude. To-day, the running of the mines is in the hands of the Mining Companies. The Government of Mysore has only the right to collect royalty. Barring that, I do not think there is any kind of control that the Government of Mysore can inflict or hope to exercise on the Mining Companies. When that is the situation, the Mining Companies standing firmly on their ground will try their very best to fight every inch of ground before they yield. Well, we should tell them that we are not worried. Our patience is at an end and we cannot bear it any longer. It is for them to come to us and tell us that they are sorry for what has happened in the past, that they will make amends in the future and if that is their attitude, they could bring forth definite proposals. I am happy to find in this connection that the Hon'ble Minister in his concluding remarks said that he would be prepared to meet them and see how best a remedy could be obtained. If this is impossible, then we accept the challenge and come what may, the mines will be taken over by the State and if the worst happens and we do not have the correct type of personnel to run it, does not matter: let the mines remain closed for a short time; the gold will be in the bowels of Mother Earth. A day will come when we will be able to train our young men who will one day go there and take up the entire management and from that day onwards, a new era will come to Mysore whereby the gold that we have been for the last 80 years sending away to Europe, America and other countries through these Mining Companies shall remain the property of Mysore, and, thus the prosperity of Mysore and its citizens will be guaranteed.

*ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ ಸಿದ್ದಮ್ಮ (ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ).—ಸ್ವಾಮಿ, ಇದುವರೆಗೂ ಮಾತನಾಡಿದಂಥ ನನ್ನ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸಹೋದರರುಗಳೆಲ್ಲರೂ ಬರಿ ಇಂಗ್ಲೀಷಿನಲ್ಲೇ ಮಾತನಾಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಆದರೆ ನನಗೆ ಎಲ್ಲೋ ಅಲ್ಲಲ್ಲೆ ಕೆಲ ಕೆಲವು ಮುಖ್ಯ ವಿಚಾರಗಳು ಮಾತ್ರ ಗೊತ್ತಾದವು. ಅದು ಏನೇ ಇರಲಿ, ಮೊಟ್ಟಮೊದಲನೆಯದಾಗಿ ಈ ದಿವಸ ಈ ಬಂಗಾರದ ಗಣಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿರುವಂಥ ವರದಿಯನ್ನು ಈ ಸಭೆಯಮುಂದೆ ತಂದುದಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ನಾನು ನಮ್ಮ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಅಭಿನಂದಿಸುತ್ತೇನೆ. ಇಲ್ಲಿಯತನಕವೂ ನಮ್ಮ ದೇಶ ಚಿನ್ನವನ್ನು ಬೆಳೆಯತಕ್ಕಂಥ ದೇಶ ಎಂದು ನಾವೆಲ್ಲರೂ ಹೇಳಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದೆವು. ಆದರೆ ಆ ಫಲ ನಮ್ಮ ಕೈಬಿಟ್ಟು ಹೋಗಿತು . ಆ ಚಿನ್ನದ ಹೊಳೆಯೆಲ್ಲಾ ಪರದೇಶಕ್ಕೆ ಹರಿದುಹೋಗುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಅದನ್ನು ಈ ದಿವಸ ತಡೆಯಲು ಒಂದು ಹೊಸ ಮಾರ್ಗವನ್ನು ಕಂಡು ಹಿಡಿಯಲು ಪ್ರಯತ್ನಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಆದುದರಿಂದ ಇದನ್ನು ಆದಷ್ಟು ಬೇಗ ಆಗು ಮಾಡಬೇಕೆಂದು ಹೇಳುತ್ತೇನೆ. ಇದನ್ನು ಹೇಳುತ್ತ ನಾನು ಎರಡು ಮಾತುಗಳನ್ನಾಡಬೇಕೆಂದು ಇಷ್ಟಪಟ್ಟಿದ್ದೇನೆ—ಈ ಎರಡು ದಿವಸಗಳಿಂದಲೂ ನಡೆದಿರುವಂಥ ಚರ್ಚೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಭಂಗಾರದ ಗಣಿಯ ವ್ಯವಹಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಏನೇನು ಅನಿವಾರ್ಯಗಳು ಬಂದಿದ್ದವು, ಅವುಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ನಮ್ಮ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಯಾವ ರೀತಿ ವರ್ತಿಸಿದೆ ಎನ್ನತಕ್ಕಂಥ ಕೆಲ ಕೆಲವು ಮುಖ್ಯಾಂಶಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಈ ಚರ್ಚೆ ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದೆಯೆಂದು ನಾನು ತಿಳಿದುಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದೇನೆ. ಈ ಚರ್ಚೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನನಗೆ ತಿಳಿದುಬಂದಂಥ ಕೆಲ ಕೆಲವು ವಿಚಾರಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ನನ್ನ ಮನಸ್ಸಿಗೆ ಪೂರಾ ನೋವುಂಟಾಗಿದೆ. ಚಿನ್ನ ತೆಗೆಯುವಂಥ ಗಣಿಯೇ ನಮ್ಮ ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿರುವಾಗ ನಮ್ಮ ದೇಶದ ಜನರಿಗೆ ಇದರಿಂದ ಯಾವ ಸುಖ ದೊರೆಯಬೇಕಾಗಿತ್ತೋ ಅದು ದೊರೆಯದೆ ಹೋಗಿ ನಮ್ಮ ದೇಶ ಇಂದು ಇಂಥ ಕಷ್ಟನಷ್ಟಗಳಿಗೆಲ್ಲಾ ಈಡಾಗಬೇಕಾಗಿ ಬಂತಲ್ಲಾ ಎಂದು ನೊಂದಮನಸ್ಸಿನಿಂದ ನಾನೀಗ ಮಾತನಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದೇನೆ. ಪರದೇಶದಿಂದ ಬೇರೆ ಜನಗಳು ನಮ್ಮ ದೇಶಕ್ಕೆ ಬಂದು ಈ ಗಣಿಯಿಂದ ಏನೇನು ಅನುಕೂಲ ಪಡೆದಿದ್ದಾರೆ, ಅವರು ಎಷ್ಟು ಆಸ್ತಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪಾದನೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿರುತ್ತಾರೆಂದು ನಮ್ಮ ಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸದಸ್ಯರೊಬ್ಬರು ಕೇಳಿದ್ದಕ್ಕೆ, ಅವರ ಸೀಮೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅವರು ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವ ಆಸ್ತಿ ಅಂತ ಏನಾದರೂ ಇದ್ದರೆ ಅವು ಕೇವಲ ಮೇಜು, ಕುರ್ಚಿ, ಬೆಂಚುಗಳೆಂದು

(ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ ಸಿದ್ದಮ್ಮ.)

ಸರ್ಕಾರದವರು ತಿಳಿಸಿದರೆಂಬುದಾಗಿ ಶ್ರೀಮಾನ್ ಇಮಾಂಸಾಹೇಬರ್ ನಿನ್ನೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು. ನಮ್ಮ ದೇಶದ ಜನ ಬಲು ಹುಷಾರಿ ಎಂದು ನಾವೂ ತಿಳಿದುಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದೆವು. ಇತರರೂ ಹಾಗೆಯೇ ಹೇಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಇಂಥಾ ಹುಷಾರಿ ಜನಗಳಿದ್ದಾಗ್ಯೂ ಅವರೇನು ಮಂಕುಬೂದಿಯನ್ನು ಇವರಿಗೆ ಉರುಬಿದರೋ ಅದು ಗೊತ್ತಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಅವರು ಎಂಟು ಸಾವಿರ ಮೈಲಿಗಳ ದೂರದಿಂದ ಬಂದು ಇಲ್ಲಿ 10-15 ಸಾವಿರ ಅಡಿ ಭೂಮಿಯ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಹೋಗಿ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡತಕ್ಕಂಥ ನಮ್ಮ ಸೀಮೆಯ ಜನಗಳಿಗೆ ಎಂಟು ಆಣೆ ಹತ್ತು ಆಣೆ ಕೂಲಿ ಕೊಟ್ಟು, ನಮ್ಮ ದೇಶದ ಜನಗಳಿಗೆ ಬಾಯಿಕಟ್ಟಿ ಪರದೇಶಕ್ಕೆ ನಮ್ಮ ಚಿನ್ನವನ್ನೊಯ್ಯಲು ಹೀಗೆ ಒಂದು ಅವಕಾಶ ಕೊಡತಕ್ಕಂಥ ಬುದ್ಧಿಯನ್ನು ನಮ್ಮವರಿಗೆ ದೇವರು ಏಕೆ ಉಂಟು ಮಾಡಿದನೋ! ಇವರಿಗೇಕೆ ಅಂಥ ಬುದ್ಧಿ ಬಂತೋ ನಾಕಾಣೆ. ಆ ಪರದೇಶದ ಜನರು ನಮ್ಮ ಕೈಗೆ ಮಣ್ಣು—ಕಬ್ಬಿಣ ಕೊಟ್ಟು ನಮ್ಮ ಚಿನ್ನವನ್ನು ಅವರ ಸೀಮೆಗೆ ಒಯ್ಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಏನೋ ಇಲ್ಲಿಯತನಕ ಆದದ್ದು ಆಗಿಹೋಯಿತು. ಅದೇನೋ ಎಲ್ಲಿಗೋ ಹೋದದ್ದು ಹಿಂದಕ್ಕೆ ಬರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಾರಲ್ಲ—ಅದರಂತೆಯೇ ಇದೂ ಕೂಡ ಆಗಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ ಈಗ ನನಗೆ ಹೊಳೆಯುತ್ತಿರುವುದು "ಅಪ್ಪನ ಕೂಡ ಉಂಡರೂ ಒಂದೇ ಅವ್ವನಕೂಡ ಉಂಡರೂ ಒಂದೇ" ಎನ್ನುವಂತೆ ಈ ಗಣಿಯ ಆಡಳಿತವನ್ನು ನೀವಾದರೂ ವಹಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಿ, ಇಲ್ಲವೇ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರವಾದರೂ ವಹಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಿ. ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಆದಷ್ಟುಬೇಗ ಒಂದು ತೀರ್ಮಾನಕ್ಕೆ ಬಂದು, ಇದರ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ತಾವು ಯಾವ ರೀತಿ ಶಾಸನವನ್ನು ಮಾಡಬೇಕೋ ಆ ರೀತಿ ಮಾಡಿ ಇದನ್ನು ಕೈಗೆ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಕಾರ್ಯವನ್ನು ತಾವು ತೀವ್ರವಾಗಿ ಆಲೋಚಿಸಬೇಕೆಂದು ಹೇಳುತ್ತೇನೆ. ಇದರಿಂದ ಸುಖವೇ ಬರಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ಕಷ್ಟವೇ ಬರಲಿ ತಾವು ಎರಡರಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದು ನಿರ್ಧಾರಮಾಡಲೇಬೇಕಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ಹಿಂದೆ ದೇಶಕ್ಕೆ ಸ್ವಾತಂತ್ರ್ಯ ತರುವಾಗ ದೇಶದ ಹಿತಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ತನು ಮನ ಧನಗಳನ್ನೆಲ್ಲಾ ಸೂರೆ ಮಾಡಿದಂಥವರು ಈ ದಿವಸ ಈ ಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಆಗಿಗಿಂತ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಕಷ್ಟಗಳೇನೂ ಈಗ ಬರಲಾರವು. ಇದೂ ಕೂಡ ನಮ್ಮೆಲ್ಲರ ಕರ್ತವ್ಯ. ಏನಾದರೂ ಮಾಡಿ ನಮ್ಮ ಆಸ್ತಿಯನ್ನು ಉಳಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ನಾವು ಪ್ರಯತ್ನ ಮಾಡಲೇಬೇಕು.

ಇನ್ನು ಆ ಗಣಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲಸಮಾಡತಕ್ಕಂಥ ಕೂಲಿಗಾರರ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಕೇವಲ 10 ಆಣೆ 12 ಆಣೆ ಕೂಲಿ ಕೊಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆಂದು ಹೇಳಿದರು: ಇದೆಂಥ ಅನ್ಯಾಯ! ಕೋಟಿಗಟ್ಟಲೆ ಆದಾಯ ಪಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದರೂ ಆ ಬಡಪಾಯಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಇಷ್ಟೊಂದು ಅನ್ಯಾಯ ಮಾಡುವುದೇ! ಈ ದಿವಸ ನಮ್ಮ ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನಾವು ಕೂಲಿಗೆ ಬರತಕ್ಕಂಥ ಜನರಿಗೆ ದಿನಕ್ಕೆ ಒಂದು ರೂಪಾಯಿ ಕೂಲಿ ಕೊಟ್ಟು ಒಂದು ಹೊತ್ತಿನ ಊಟವನ್ನು ಸಹ ಹಾಕಬೇಕಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೀಗಿರುವಾಗ ಆ ಗಣಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 10 ಸಾವಿರ ಅಡಿಗಳ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಹೋಗಿ ಕೆಲಸಮಾಡತಕ್ಕಂಥ ಜನರು ಹೀಗೆ ತಮ್ಮ ಪ್ರಾಣದ ಮೇಲಿನ ಆಸೆಯನ್ನೆಲ್ಲಾ ತೊರೆದು ಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ! ಹಾಗೆ 10 ಸಾವಿರ ಅಡಿಗಳ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಹೋಗಬೇಕೆಂದು ಹೇಳಿದ್ದನ್ನು ಕೇಳಿದರೆ ನನಗೆ ಇಲ್ಲೇ ಪೂರಾ ಭಯವಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಹೀಗಿದ್ದಾಗ್ಯೂ ಅವರು ಅಲ್ಲಿ ಹೀಗೆ ಕೇವಲ 8-10 ಆಣೆಗಳ ಕೂಲಿಗಾಗಿ ಬರಬೇಕಾಗಿದ್ದರೆ ಅವರೆಲ್ಲ ತಮ್ಮ ಪ್ರಾಣಗಳ ಮೇಲಿನ ಆಸೆಯನ್ನು ತೊರೆದು ಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕೆ ಬರುವ ಮುನ್ನ ತಮ್ಮ ಹೆಂಡತಿ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆಲ್ಲಾ ಒಂದೇ ಸಾರ್ತಿ ಹೇಳಿಬಿಟ್ಟು ಬಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆಂದು ಕಾಣುತ್ತದೆ! ಅವರಿಗೆ ಹೀಗೆ ಅನ್ಯಾಯ ಮಾಡಬಾರದು. ಆದರೆ ನಾವು ಆ ಬ್ರಿಟಿಷ್‌ನವರನ್ನು ಬಹಳ ದಯಾಳುಗಳು ಎಂದು ಭಾವಿಸಿದ್ದೆವು. ಅವರನ್ನು ನಾವು ಹೇಗೆ ದಯಾಳುಗಳು ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿದುಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದೇವೋ ಅದರಂತೆ ಅವರು ನಮಗೆ ದೇಶವನ್ನು ಬಿಟ್ಟುಕೊಟ್ಟುಹೋದರು. ಈಗಲೂ ಕೂಡ ಅವರು ಅದೇ ರೀತಿ ಈ ಗಣಿಯನ್ನು ಸಹ ನಮ್ಮನ್ನು ಕಷ್ಟಕ್ಕೆ ಗುರಿಮಾಡದ ಹಾಗೆ ನಮಗೆ ಬಿಟ್ಟುಕೊಟ್ಟು ಹೋಗುತ್ತಾರೆಂದು ನಾನು ನಂಬಿದ್ದೇನೆ. ಆದರೆ ಈಗ ಈ ವರದಿಯನ್ನು ಸಭೆಯಮುಂದೆ ಮಂಡಿಸಿರತಕ್ಕಂಥ ನಮ್ಮ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಗೃಹಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳೂ ಸಹ ಬಹಳ ಜೋರಾದವರೇನೆ. ಇಲ್ಲದಿದ್ದರೆ ಇಂಥ ವರದಿಯನ್ನು ಸಭೆಯ ಮುಂದೆ ತರಲು ಬೇರೆ ಯಾವರಿಗೆ ಆಗುತ್ತಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಈಗ ಸರ್ಕಾರದವರು ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರದೊಡನೆ ವ್ಯವಹಾರಮಾಡಿ ಕೂಡಲೆ ಈ ಗಣಿಯನ್ನು ಅವರಿಂದ ಬಿಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಪ್ರಯತ್ನ ಮಾಡಬೇಕೆಂದು ಹೇಳುತ್ತೇನೆ. ಆದರೆ ಈ ಹಿಂದೆ ಇದ್ದಂಥ ಆ ಗೋಲ್ಡ್ ಡ್ಯೂಟಿ ಆಕ್ಟನ್ನು ಅಬಾಲಿಷ್ ಮಾಡಿದರು ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿದ್ದನ್ನು ಕೇಳಿದರೆ ನನಗಂತೂ ತುಂಬ ವ್ಯಸನವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಇದು ಇಡೀ ದೇಶಕ್ಕೆ ಸೇರಿರುವಂಥ ಒಂದು ಸಂಪತ್ತು. ಈ ದಿವಸ ಈ ಮಂತ್ರಿಮಂಡಲವಿರಬಹುದು; ನಾಳೆ ಮತ್ತೊಂದು ಮಂತ್ರಿಮಂಡಲ ಬರಬಹುದು. ಯಾರೇ ಬರಲಿ ದೇಶದ ಸಂಪತ್ತನ್ನು ಅಲಕ್ಷ್ಯಮಾಡಬಾರದು. ಯಾರೇ ಆಗಲಿ ತಪ್ಪುಮಾಡಿದ್ದನ್ನು ತಪ್ಪು ಎಂದು ಒಪ್ಪಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು. ಹಾಗೆ ತಪ್ಪುಮಾಡಿದ್ದರೂ ಅದು ನಾನಲ್ಲ ಅಂತ ಹೇಳುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋದರೆ ಕೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿದ್ದಿರುವ ಮನುಷ್ಯ ಹೊರಗಡೆಗೆ ಬರಲು ಹೊರಳಾಡಿದರೆ ಅವನು ಮತ್ತಷ್ಟು ಆ ಕೆಸರಿನೊಳಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋಗುತ್ತಾನೆ. ಆದುದರಿಂದ ಸರಿಯಾಗಿರುವುದನ್ನು ಸರಿಯೆಂದು ಹೇಳಬೇಕು, ತಪ್ಪಾದ್ದನ್ನು ತಪ್ಪು ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಲೇಬೇಕು. ಯಾರು ಯಾವ ಕೆಲಸವನ್ನೇ ಮಾಡಲಿ ನಮ್ಮ ಚಿನ್ನ ನಮ್ಮ ದೇಶಕ್ಕೆ ಉಳಿಯುವಂತೆ ಮಾಡಬೇಕಾದ್ದು ಮುಖ್ಯವಾದದ್ದು. ಈಗಲಾದರೂ ತಾವು ಇದನ್ನು ಬೇಗ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳದಿದ್ದರೆ ಇನ್ನು 8-10 ವರ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನಮ್ಮ ಹೆಂಗಸರು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಕೊರಳಿನಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಮಾಂಗಲ್ಯದ ಚಿನ್ನವೂ ಸಹ ಪರದೇಶಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋಗಿ ಕೊನೆಗೆ ಇವರ ಕೊರಳಿಗೆ ಮರದ ತಾಳಿಗಳು ಬೀಳಬೇಕಾದೀತು. ಆದುದರಿಂದ ನಾನೀಗ ತಮ್ಮಲ್ಲಿ ಅತಿ ವಿನಯದಿಂದ ಪ್ರಾರ್ಥನೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದೇನೆಂದರೆ: ಈ ಗಣಿಯ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣಾಡಳಿತವನ್ನು ನಮ್ಮ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಈ ಮೊದಲಿಂದಲೇ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಪ್ರಯತ್ನಿಸಬೇಕಾಗಿತ್ತು; ಆದರೆ ಅದು ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಬಹಳ ನಿಧಾನವಾಗಿದೆ; ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಈ ವಿಚಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರದೊಡನೆ ವ್ಯವಹಾರಮಾಡಿ ಆದಷ್ಟುಬೇಗ ಈ ಗಣಿಯ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣಾಡಳಿತವನ್ನು ನಮ್ಮ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕೆಂದು ಹೇಳಿ ನಾನು ನನ್ನ ಎರಡು ಮಾತುಗಳನ್ನು ಮುಗಿಸುತ್ತೇನೆ.

*Sri P. R. RAMAIYA.—Sir, at the outset, let me join in the warm congratulations that are given to our Home Minister for the able way in which he has placed the case before us. Sir, we were indeed ignorant as to what

had been going on in this matter. From the time the Gold Duty was abolished, there was a misgiving in the country that the country and the State were deprived of their dues in a very hasty manner. Sir, if you observe the comments that appeared in the Press and the opinion that was expressed outside the Legislature, the country doubted the wisdom of the Government in abolishing that duty. Sir, there were men who were prophetic enough to say that it was an unwise step and it would land the Government in troubled waters. Sir, that prophesy has come true. From the time that this new Ministry assumed office and when the financial situation in the country demanded that they have to explore every avenue of revenue, they looked into the question and doubts were expressed in this House also if the agreement was being worked by the Mines according to the terms they agreed to. As a result, this Committee was appointed and the Terms of Reference are very clear. It is stated there: "examination of the position arising out of the Argeement of 20th February 1949 between the Mining Companies and the Government" and "measures to ensure improvement in the returns from the Mining Industry." Sir, we are concerned with the last item, namely "improvement in the returns from the Mining Industry." Sir, this Report is a very valuable document and it is a historic document. I am glad to inform this House that this Report has become one of All-India importance because the Mining Companies in Mysore are not merely of All-India importance but of world importance, because wherever the Gold Mines are, the world is interested in them and naturally the world over, every mining expert, every financier is interested in the working of the Kolar Gold Fields Mines and so naturally this Report which brings into light so many things which were hidden under the ground is becoming one of All-India importance. Sir, I do not want to traverse the ground which other members have traversed. Sir, I am glad to find that the debate in this House has gone on in a very admirable manner. Every one either on the side of the Government or in the Opposition has agreed to the findings of the Report. Sir, we need not go now into facts and figures. But I would like to ask this House to see how the mining authorities have reacted. Instead of honourably co-operating with the Committee, they have non-co-operated. They have assumed a very superior attitude saying that they have sent their reply and there is nothing more for them to add. Is this an attitude that we can commend ? This is an attitude which is highly unwarranted, which ought to be condemned by this House. Nothing would have been lost if they had come and appeared before the Committee; on the other hand they would have gained. Mr. Sydney Thomas said that great nations have joined together and solved very important problems in a very friendly way. Very well; is that attitude shown by the Company ? Sir, to add insult to the injury, they question the very authority of the Government to constitute the Committee. This is the height of, what I should say, impertinence. Government has sovereign authority. The Legislature is the sovereign authority. It is out of grace, out of kindness that we went out of the way in 1949 and entered into an agreement with them. Sir, I do not understand the mind behind this attitude. They thought that Government would yield to them and would go on bended knees to them. Sir, I am glad that this House has taken the right attitude. In the rejoinder they have given, they have used terms of expression which are very ungentlemanly, which are unbecoming of a company which supposes to represent a very enlightened nation. Perhaps, they are far behind the times; they do not know that the World has advanced very much. The same England which ruled this country for over 100 years joined its hands with the representatives of this country and transferred the power in a gentlemanly manner. To-day England and India are great friends. When such is the case, how is it that these Kolar Gold Field Companies are far behind the times and do not understand that

(Sri P. R. RAMIAH.)

they are living in a modern period, in a very enlightened period ? Sir, they should be taught a lesson ; they should be made to realise what their position is.

Coming to the Report, Sir, the Committee has placed before us some suggestions and it is the unanimous opinion of the Committee that the continuance of the agreement in the present form will not serve any useful purpose. I am sure the House unanimously agrees to this view. The suggestion of the Committee, namely, to revise the agreement in a suitable manner may be looked into if the Company comes with a chastened attitude. They have already learnt what the attitude of the House is in the matter. If they do not come with a chastened attitude, the other alternative is, to scrap the agreement and take over the Mines ourselves. With the resources at our hands and with the help of the Indian Financial Corporation, we can float a Company and work the concern.

Sir, lastly, I appeal to the Government to take a very bold attitude and the Company may be made to learn wheret hey are. If they are not prepared to come with a chastened attitude, the way is clear : the agreement should be scrapped and the mines taken over.

*ಶ್ರೀ ಡಿ. ದೇವರಾಜ ಅರಸ್ (ಹುಣಸೂರು).—ಸ್ವಾಮಿ, ನಮ್ಮ ಮುಂದೆ ಇಟ್ಟಿರುವ ಈ ವರದಿಯನ್ನು ತಯಾರುಮಾಡಿರುವ ಕಮಿಟಿಯವರಿಗೆ ಮೊದಲನೆಯದಾಗಿ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಅಭಿನಂದನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಅರ್ಪಿಸಬೇಕಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ವರದಿಯನ್ನು ಓದಿದಮೇಲೆ ನಿಜವಾಗಿಯೂ ನಮ್ಮ ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ Gold Mining Companies ಯಾವ ರೀತಿ ಕೆಲಸಮಾಡುತ್ತಿವೆ, ಇದರಿಂದ ದೇಶಕ್ಕೆ ಒದಗಬಹುದಾದ ಸಾಧಕ ಬಾಧಕಗಳೇನು ಎನ್ನುವುದನ್ನು layman, ಎಂದರೆ ಯಾವ ವಿಚಾರವೂ ಗೊತ್ತಿಲ್ಲದೆ ಇರತಕ್ಕ ಮನುಷ್ಯನಿಗೆ ಕೂಡ ಅರ್ಥವಾಗುವ ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಚಿನ್ನದ ಗಣಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ಸರ್ವತೋಮುಖವಾದ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳನ್ನೂ ಕೂಲಂಕಷವಾಗಿ ಈ ವರದಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅವರು ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾಪ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ ಮತ್ತು ಅಂಕಿ ಅಂಶಗಳ ಆಧಾರದಮೇಲೆ ಕೆಲವು remarks ಕೂಡ ಬರೆದಿಟ್ಟಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಅದಕ್ಕಾಗಿಯೂ ಸಹ ಅವರನ್ನು ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಅಭಿನಂದಿಸುತ್ತೇನೆ.

1949ನೆ ಇಸವಿಯಿಂದೀಚೆಗೆ, Mining Companyಯವರಿಗೂ ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೂ ಆದಂಥ ಒಂದು ಒಪ್ಪಂದದ ಪರಿಣಾಮವಾಗಿ ನಮ್ಮ ದೇಶಕ್ಕೆ ಬರುತ್ತಿದ್ದ Gold Duty ಬರದೆ ತೊಂದರೆಯಾದ ಪ್ರಯುಕ್ತ, ಬರತಕ್ಕ ವರಮಾನ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ನಿಂತುಹೋದ ಪ್ರಯುಕ್ತ, ಸರ್ಕಾರದವರು ಸ್ಥಿರ ಮನಸ್ಸುಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ಈ ಸಮಿತಿಯನ್ನು ನೇಮಕಮಾಡಿ ಕೂಲಂಕಷವಾಗಿ ಈ ವಿಷಯವನ್ನು ಪರಿಶೀಲನೆ ಮಾಡಬೇಕೆಂದು ಮಾಡಿದ್ದು ತುಂಬ ಸಾರ್ಥಕವಾದ ಹಾಗಾಯಿತು. ವರದಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿರತಕ್ಕ ಕೆಲವು ವಿಷಯಗಳ ವಿಚಾರವಾಗಿ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾಪಮಾಡಿ ಕಂಪೆನಿಯವರು ಉತ್ತರವನ್ನು ಕಳುಹಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಅದನ್ನು ಕೂಡ ನಾನು ಕುತೂಹಲದಿಂದ ಕೂಲಂಕಷವಾಗಿ ಓದಿದ್ದೇನೆ. ಅಷ್ಟು ದೊಡ್ಡ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿಯುಳ್ಳ ಕಂಪೆನಿಯನ್ನು ವಿನಾಕಾರಣ ಈ ಮಹಾಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೀಕೆಮಾಡಬೇಕಾದರೆ ಅವರ ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯಗಳೇನಿವೆ, ಅವರ ಕಷ್ಟನಿಷ್ಠುರಗಳೇನು, ಅವರಿಗೆ ನಿಜವಾಗಿ ಕಷ್ಟವಿದೆಯೇ ಇಲ್ಲವೇ, ಅವರು ಹೇಳತಕ್ಕದ್ದೇನಿದೆ, ಇದನ್ನೆಲ್ಲಾ ತಿಳಿಯಬೇಕೆಂಬ ಉದ್ದೇಶದಿಂದ ನಾನು Mining ಕಂಪೆನಿಗಳವರಿಂದ ಬಂದಿರತಕ್ಕ ಜವಾಬನ್ನು ಓದಿದ್ದೇನೆ. ಅವರ ಜವಾಬಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಎರಡು ಮುಖ್ಯವಾದ ಕಾರಣಗಳನ್ನು ತೋರಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಒಂದು working cost ಜಾಸ್ತಿಯಾಗಿದೆ ಮತ್ತು 1949ನೆ ಇಸವಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೂ ಕಂಪೆನಿಗೂ ಆದ ಒಪ್ಪಂದದ ಕಾಲದಲ್ಲಿದ್ದ ಒಂದು ಔನ್ಸ್ ಚಿನ್ನದ ಬೆಲೆ ಕಡಿಮೆಯಾಗುತ್ತಾ ಬಂದು ಈಗ ಶೇಕಡ 25ರಷ್ಟು ಕಡಿಮೆಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ sharing in profit ಎಂದು ತೀರ್ಮಾನವಾಗಿದ್ದಾಗ್ಯೂ ಆ profitನಲ್ಲಿ share ಮಾಡಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಕೊಡುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಇದನ್ನು ನಾವು anticipate ಮಾಡಲಿಲ್ಲ. 1949ನೆ ಇಸವಿಯಲ್ಲಿ agreement ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳತಕ್ಕ ಕಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ ಈರೀತಿಯಾಗಿ ಚಿನ್ನದ ಧಾರಣೆ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇಳಿದು ಹೋಗುತ್ತದೆನ್ನುವ ವಿಚಾರ anticipate ಮಾಡಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ನಾವೂ ಮಾಡಲಿಲ್ಲ, ಸರ್ಕಾರದವರೂ ಮಾಡಲಿಲ್ಲ, ಆದಕಾರಣ ಇವೊತ್ತಿನ ದಿವಸ ನಾವು ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಕೊಡಬೇಕಾದ ಲಾಭದಲ್ಲಿನ ಭಾಗವನ್ನು ಕೊಡುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗಲಿಲ್ಲವೆಂದು ಹೇಳಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಚಿನ್ನದ ಧಾರಣೆ ಇಳಿದು ಹೋಗಿರುವುದು ಎಲ್ಲರಿಗೂ ಗೊತ್ತಿರುವ ವಿಚಾರ. Cost ಯಾವ ರೀತಿ increase ಆಗಿದೆಯೆಂದು ವರದಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಕೊಟ್ಟಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಈಗಲೇ ಅಂಕಿಅಂಶಗಳು ಎಲ್ಲರಿಗೂ ಗೊತ್ತಿರುವುದರಿಂದ ನಾನು ಮತ್ತೆ ಮತ್ತೆ ಅದನ್ನು ವಿಮರ್ಶೆ ಮಾಡಬೇಕಾದ ಪ್ರಮೇಯವಿಲ್ಲ. ಆದರೆ ಈ ಅಂಕಿಅಂಶಗಳಿಂದ ನಮಗೆ ಗೊತ್ತಾಗತಕ್ಕ ಒಂದು ಮುಖ್ಯ ವಿಚಾರವೇನೆಂದರೆ 1949ನೆ ಇಸವಿಯಲ್ಲಿ cost of production ಏನಿತ್ತು ಮತ್ತು 1953ನೇ ಇಸವಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವ ರೀತಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿದೆ ಎನ್ನುವುದು. ಈ cost of productionನಲ್ಲಿ fixed cost ಮತ್ತು variable cost ಎಂದು ಎರಡು ಭಾಗಮಾಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. Fixed costನಲ್ಲಿ Administration ಮತ್ತು Central Administration ಎಂದು ಎರಡು heads ಇವೆ. ಅದರಲ್ಲಿ Mysore Mines, Champion Reef Mines ಮತ್ತು Nandydroog Mines ಈ ಮೂರು ಗಣಿಗಳಲ್ಲೂ ಕೂಡ 1949 ಇಸವಿಯಲ್ಲಿದ್ದ ಖರ್ಚಿಗೂ 1950ನೆ ಇಸವಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಖರ್ಚಿಗೂ ಹೋಲಿಸಿದರೆ ಬಹಳವಾಗಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಮಾಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. Mysore Minesನಲ್ಲಿ 1949ರಲ್ಲಿ 3,28,000 ರೂಪಾಯಿ ಎರಡು ಬಾಬುಗಳಲ್ಲೂ ಖರ್ಚಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದುದನ್ನು 1953ರಲ್ಲಿ 9,30,000 ರೂಪಾಯಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಏರಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಅದೇರೀತಿಯಾಗಿ Champion Reef Minesನಲ್ಲಿ 1949ರಲ್ಲಿ 3,39,000 ರೂಪಾಯಿ ಇದ್ದುದನ್ನು 1953ರಲ್ಲಿ 8,88,000 ರೂಪಾಯಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಏರಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ನಂದೀದುರ್ಗ ಗಣಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 3,66,000

ರೂಪಾಯಿ ಇದ್ದದ್ದನ್ನು 1953ರಲ್ಲಿ 8,47,000 ರೂಪಾಯಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಏರಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಹೀಗೆ ಈ ಎರಡು ಬಾಬುಗಳಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ಮೂರು ಗಣಿಗಳಿಂದಲೂ ಸೇರಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿ ರತಕ್ಕದ್ದು 15,82,000 ರೂಪಾಯಿಗಳು. ಅದೇ ರೀತಿಯಾಗಿ ಈ variable costs ಎನ್ನುವುದರಲ್ಲಿ mining ಮತ್ತು labour ಎಂಬ ಎರಡು ಬಾಬುಗಳನ್ನೂ ಒಟ್ಟಿಗೆ ಸೇರಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಇದರಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರಿಗೆ ಅನುಕೂಲವಾಗುವ ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ cost ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿದೆಯೋ ಎಂದು ನೋಡಿದರೆ ಅದೇನೂ ಕಾಣುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. 1949ನೆಯ ಇಸವಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮೂರು ಕಂಪೆನಿಗಳಿಂದಲೂ ಸೇರಿ ಒಟ್ಟು 1,52,73,000 ರೂಪಾಯಿ mines and labour charges ಇದ್ದುದ್ದು 1953ನೆ ಇಸವಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 179,92,000 ರೂಪಾಯಿ ಖರ್ಚು ಆಗಿದೆ. ಎಂದರೆ ಸುಮಾರು 27,19,000 ರೂಪಾಯಿ ಮಾತ್ರ mining and labour chargesಗೋಸ್ಕರ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಗೆ ಖರ್ಚಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆಯೆಂದು ಗೊತ್ತಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಇದರಿಂದ ನಮಗೇನು ತೋರುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂದರೆ ಲೇಬರರ್ಸ್ ಎಂದು ಯಾರಿಗೆ ಹೇಳುತ್ತೇವೋ ಅವರಿಗಾಗಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿ ಖರ್ಚು ಮಾಡಿರುವುದು ಕಂಡುಬರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಬರೀ ಕವೆನೆಂಟಡ್ ಸ್ಟಾಫ್ ಎಂದು ಕರೆಯುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರ ವರ್ಗಕ್ಕೆ ಪ್ರಾವಿಡೆಂಟ್ ಫಂಡ್ ವಗೈರೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿ ಕೊಡಲು ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ 15-16 ಲಕ್ಷ ರೂಪಾಯಿಗಳು ಖರ್ಚಾಗುತ್ತವೆ. ಹೀಗೆ ವರ್ಕಿಂಗ್ ಕಾಸ್ಟ್ ಏರಿಸದೇ ಇದ್ದರೆ ಒಂದು ಷೇರು ಅದರಲ್ಲಾದರೂ ಬರುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಅವಕಾಶವಾಗುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. 1949ನೆಯ ಇಸವಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಗೋಲ್ಡ್ ಡ್ಯೂಟಿ ಆಕ್ಟನ್ನು ವಜಾಮಾಡಿ ಒಂದು ಒಪ್ಪಂದ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಕೆಲವು ಮುಖ್ಯವಾದ ಕಾರಣಗಳಿವೆ. ನಾನು ನಿನ್ನೆಯಿಂದಲೂ ಬಹಳ ಕುತೂಹಲದಿಂದ ಇದರ ವಿಚಾರವನ್ನು ಸರಿಯಾಗಿ ತಿಳಿಯಬೇಕೆಂದು ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸದಸ್ಯರು ಹೇಳಿದ್ದನ್ನೆಲ್ಲಾ ಕೂಲಂಕಷವಾಗಿ ಕೇಳಿದೆ. ಅಲ್ಲದೆ 1949ನೆಯ ಇಸವಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಗೋಲ್ಡ್ ಡ್ಯೂಟಿ vary ಮಾಡುವಾಗ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ಆಕ್ಟನ್ನು ಮಂಡಿಸಿದ ಸಚಿವರು ಏನು ಹೇಳಿದ್ದಾರೆಂಬುದನ್ನು ನಿನ್ನೆ ರಾತ್ರಿಯೆಲ್ಲಾ ಓದಿದೆ. ಆಗ ಅವರ ಮುಖ್ಯವಾದ ಒಂದು ಧ್ಯೇಯವೇನಿತ್ತು ಎಂದರೆ 1949ರವರೆಗೆ ಗೋಲ್ಡ್ ಡ್ಯೂಟಿ ಆಕ್ಟ್ ಏನಿತ್ತೋ ಅದರಿಂದ ಕಂಪನಿಗೆ ನಷ್ಟವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ, ಬಹಳ ತೊಂದರೆಯಾಗುತ್ತದೆ, ಅದು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಯಾಗುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ, ಅದರ ಲಾಂಗೆವಿಟಿ ಆಫ್ ಲೈಫ್‌ಗೆ ಅವಕಾಶವಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ, ಅದು ಬೇಗ ಮುಗಿದುಹೋಗಬಹುದು, ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ವಿಷಯಗಳನ್ನು 1941ರಿಂದಲೂ ಕಂಪೆನಿಯವರು ಹೇಳಿಕೊಂಡು ಬಂದಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಇದು ವರದಿಯಲ್ಲಿದೆ. 1945ರಲ್ಲಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಅಮೆಂಡ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ತಂದಿರುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಇದೇ ಕಾರಣ. ಏನೇ ಆಗಲೀ ಆಗ ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಕೆಲವು ಕಾರಣಗಳಿದ್ದುವು. ಆಗಿನ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸಚಿವರು ಮುಖ್ಯವಾಗಿ ಈ ವಿಚಾರದಲ್ಲಿ 'ನಾವು ಲಾಭ ಷೇರುಮಾಡುವ ಷೇರು ಹೋಲ್ಡರು ಅಥವಾ ಭಾಗಸ್ಥರು ಆಗುತ್ತೇವೆ, ಆದರಿಂದ ಈಗ ಬರುವ ಉತ್ಪತ್ತಿ ಅಂದರೆ ಗೋಲ್ಡ್ ಡ್ಯೂಟಿ ಏನಿದೆಯೋ ಅದು ಯಾವಾಗಲಾದರೂ ಕಡಮೆಯಾಗಬಹುದು. ಈಗ ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ರಿಲೀಫ್ ಕೇಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ, ನಾವು ಪಾರ್ಟ್‌ನರ್ಸ್ ಆದರೆ ಅವರಿಗೆ ಬರುವ ಲಾಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದು ದೊಡ್ಡ ಷೇರು ಸಿಕ್ಕುತ್ತದೆ, ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ರಿಪೀಲ್ ಮಾಡಿ ಹೊಸ ಒಪ್ಪಂದ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಒಪ್ಪಿದ್ದಾರೆ' ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿದರು. ಮತ್ತು ಹೈಗ್ರೇಡ್ ಓರನ್ನು ವರ್ಕ್ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಾರೆ, ಲೋ ಗ್ರೇಡ್ ಓರನ್ನು ಹಾಗೆಯೇ ಬಿಟ್ಟುಬಿಡುವುದರಿಂದ ಬಹಳ ಕಾಲ ಕಂಪೆನಿ ಉಳಿಯುವುದಿಲ್ಲ, ಬೇಗ ಅವರಿಗೆ ಬರುವ ಫಾಯಿದೆಯನ್ನು ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಂಡು ಹೋಗುತ್ತಾರೆ, ಅನೇಕ ವರ್ಷ ಆ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ಜೀವ ಉಳಿಯುವುದಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ಮುಖ್ಯ ಕಾರಣವನ್ನು ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು. ಅಲ್ಲದೆ ಇಂಡಿಯನೈಜೇಷನ್ ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ವಿಚಾರವನ್ನು ಹೇಳಿದರು. ಆದರೆ ಅವರೇನು ಒಂದು ಉದಾತ್ತ ಧ್ಯೇಯದಿಂದ ಮತ್ತು ಸದುದ್ದೇಶದಿಂದ ಇದೆಲ್ಲವನ್ನೂ ರಿಪೀಲ್ ಮಾಡಿ ಅಗ್ರಿಮೆಂಟಿಗೆ ಬಂದರೆ ಅನುಕೂಲವಾಗುತ್ತದೆಂದು ಉದ್ದೇಶಪಟ್ಟರೋ ಆ ಉದ್ದೇಶ ಈ ದಿವಸ ನಮಗೆ ಕಾಣುವ ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಫಲವಾಗಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಈ ಅಗ್ರಿಮೆಂಟ್ ಆದಮೇಲೆ ಕಂಪೆನಿಯವರು ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಸರಿಯಾದ ವರಮಾನ ಬರುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಕೂಡ ಅಡ್ಡಿ ಬರುವ ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡಿರುವುದು ಸ್ವಯಂ ವೇದ್ಯವಾಗಿದೆ. ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸದಸ್ಯರೂ ಕೂಡ ಚೆನ್ನಾಗಿ ಈ ವಿಚಾರವನ್ನು ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾಪ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ವರದಿಯಲ್ಲೂ ಕೂಡ ಈ ಅಗ್ರಿಮೆಂಟಿನಿಂದ ಈಗಿರುವ ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವ ಸಹಾಯವೂ ಆಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಇದನ್ನು ವರ್ಕ್ ಮಾಡುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಸಹ ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗಲಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಈ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ದೃಷ್ಟಿಯಿಂದ ಈಗಿರುವ ಅಗ್ರಿಮೆಂಟನ್ನು ಬದಲಾವಣೆಮಾಡಿ ಒಂದು ಹೊಸ ಒಪ್ಪಂದಕ್ಕೆ ಬರಬೇಕಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಈ ಹೊಸ ಒಪ್ಪಂದಕ್ಕೆ ಬರಬೇಕಾದರೆ ಕಂಪೆನಿಯವರ ಒಪ್ಪಿಗೆಯಾಗಬೇಕು. ಅವರು ಒಪ್ಪದಿದ್ದರೆ ನಾವು ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಕರಣ ಮಾಡಬೇಕಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಶ್ರೀಮಾನ್ ಮರಿಯಪ್ಪನವರು ಮಾತನಾಡುತ್ತಾ, ಈಗ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಕರಣ ಮಾಡುವುದಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಸ್ನೇಹಭಾವದಿಂದ ಒಂದು ಒಪ್ಪಂದ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡರೆ ಉತ್ತಮವಲ್ಲವೇ, ಅದು ಜಾಣ್ಮೆಯೆಂದು ಕಾಣುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿದರು. ಆದರೆ ಈಗಿರತಕ್ಕ ಅಗ್ರಿಮೆಂಟ್ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಅದರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ 3 ಕಾಸೂ ಬರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ, ಬರುವ ಆದಾಯವನ್ನು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಸಲು ಬೇರೆ ರೀತಿಯ ಒಪ್ಪಂದ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡೇ ತೀರಬೇಕು, ಎಂದು ಸಮಿತಿಯವರು ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯಪಟ್ಟಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಈಗ ಕಂಪನಿ ಕೊಡುತ್ತಿರುವ ಶೇಕಡ 5ರಷ್ಟು ರಾಯಲ್ಟಿಯನ್ನು ಶೇಕಡ 10ಕ್ಕೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಸಬೇಕೆಂದು ಸಮಿತಿಯವರು ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಸಿಫಾರಸನ್ನು ಒಪ್ಪಿದರೆ ಕಂಪೆನಿಯನ್ನು ಮುಚ್ಚುತ್ತೇವೆಂದು ಕಂಪೆನಿಯವರು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಒಂದು ಕಡೆ ದೇಶಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗಾಗಿ ರಾಯಲ್ಟಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಮಾಡುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಅವಕಾಶವಿಲ್ಲ ಇನ್ನೊಂದು ಕಡೆ ಕಂಪೆನಿ ಮುಚ್ಚುತ್ತೇವೆಂದು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಇದು ಯಾವ ರೀತಿ ತೀರ್ಮಾನವಾಗಬೇಕೋ ಅರ್ಥವಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಬಂದಷ್ಟೇ ಬರಲಿ, ಹೇಗಾದರೂ ಕೆಲಸ ನಡೆಯಲಿ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳುವುದು ಸೂಕ್ತವಲ್ಲ. ಹೊಸ ಒಪ್ಪಂದಕ್ಕೆ ಬಂದು ಸ್ವಲ್ಪ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿ ಕೊಡುವುದಾದರೆ ಏಕೆ ಒಪ್ಪಬಾರದು ಎಂದು ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮಿತ್ರರು ಕೇಳಿದರು. ಅದು ಮುಖ್ಯವಾದ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಯಲ್ಲ. ಶ್ರೀ ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸನ್‌ರವರು ಈಗ ಹೇಳಿದ ಹಾಗೆ, ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಕರಣ ಮಾಡಬೇಕೆಂಬ ಉದ್ದೇಶವನ್ನು ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಇಟ್ಟುಕೊಳ್ಳಲೇಬೇಕು ಮತ್ತು ಅದನ್ನು ಮಾಡಲೇಬೇಕಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಹೊರಗಡೆಯಿಂದ ಬಂದಿರುವ ಜನರಿಗೆ ನಮ್ಮ ದೇಶದ ಉತ್ಪತ್ತಿಯನ್ನು ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಂಡು ಹೋಗುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಇನ್ನುಮೇಲಾದರೂ ಅವಕಾಶ ಕೊಡಬಾರದು. ಆದಕಾರಣ ಇರುವ ಒಪ್ಪಂದವನ್ನು ಮುಂದುವರಿಸೋಣ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳುವುದು ಖಂಡಿತ ಜಾಣ್ಮೆಯಲ್ಲ, ನ್ಯಾಯವಲ್ಲ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಕರಣ ಮಾಡಬೇಕಾದ್ದೇ ನಮ್ಮ ಗುರಿಯಾಗಿರಬೇಕು. ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ನಮಗೆ ಟೆಕ್ನಿಕಲ್ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ ಇಲ್ಲ.

(ಶ್ರೀ ಡಿ. ದೇವರಾಜ ಅರಸ್.)

ನಮ್ಮ ಜನರಿಗೆ ಆ ವಿಚಾರ ಗೊತ್ತಾಗಿಲ್ಲ, ಈ ದಿವಸ ಆ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವೇ ಅಂದರೆ, ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ನಾವು ಹೇಳುವುದು ಅವರು ಧೈರ್ಯ ಮಾಡಬೇಕು ಎಂದು. ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಕರಣ ಮಾಡಬೇಕೆಂಬ ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯವನ್ನು ಖಚಿತವಾಗಿ ಈ ದಿವಸದಿಂದಲೇ ತೀರ್ಮಾನಮಾಡಿ. ಈ ವರ್ಷದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ 4-5 ವರ್ಷಗಳಾದರೂ ಅನತಿ ದೂರದಲ್ಲಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರದವರು ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಕರಣಮಾಡಿ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿ ವಹಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ತಾವೇ ಸ್ವತಃ ಈ ಕಂಪೆನಿಯನ್ನು ನಡೆಸುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಜನರಿಗೆ ಯಾವ ತರ ಪೇತು ಬೇಕೋ ಅದನ್ನೆಲ್ಲಾ ಕೊಟ್ಟು, ತಕ್ಕ ಆಸಕ್ತಿ ವಹಿಸಬೇಕು. ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಈ ವಿಚಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿ ಕೂಡ ಇದೆ. ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸಭೆಯ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ಬೆಂಬಲ ಸಹಾ ಇದೆ. ಕೊನೆಯದಾಗಿ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಕರಣವಾಗಬೇಕೆಂಬುದನ್ನು ಸಮರ್ಥನೆಮಾಡಿ ಒಂದು ಮಾತನ್ನು ಕೌಟಿಲ್ಯರ ಅರ್ಥಶಾಸ್ತ್ರದಿಂದ ಹೇಳುತ್ತೇನೆ. ಕೌಟಿಲ್ಯರ ಅರ್ಥಶಾಸ್ತ್ರ ರಚಿತವಾದುದು ಸುಮಾರು ಕ್ರಿ.ಪೂ. 300ನೇ ವರ್ಷದಲ್ಲಿ, ಅಂದರೆ 2200 ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಕೆಳಗೆ; ಆ ಪುಸ್ತಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೌಟಿಲ್ಯರು ಅಥವಾ ಚರಿತ್ರಾರ್ಹವಾದ ಮತ್ತೊಂದು ಹೆಸರನ್ನು ಪಡೆದಿದ್ದ ಚಾಣಕ್ಯರು ಚಂದ್ರಗುಪ್ತನ ಕಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಧಾನಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದವರು ಹೇಳಿರುವುದನ್ನು ಡಾ॥ ಶಾಮಶಾಸ್ತ್ರಿಯವರು ಇಂಗ್ಲೀಷಿಗೆ ತರ್ಜುಮೆ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಕೌಟಿಲ್ಯರ ಅರ್ಥಶಾಸ್ತ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ "The Government shall keep as state monopoly both mining and commerce" ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಇದನ್ನೇ ಸಮರ್ಥನೆ ಮಾಡಿ ಇನ್ನೊಂದು ಮಾತನ್ನು ಈ ರೀತಿ ಹೇಳಿದ್ದಾರೆ.— "Mines are source of treasury. From treasury comes the power of Government." 2290 ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಹಿಂದೆ ಕೌಟಿಲ್ಯರು ಹೇಳಿರುವ ಮಾತು ಈ ದಿವಸಕ್ಕೂ ನಿಜವಾಗಿ ಅನ್ವಯಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಈ ಮಾತಿನ ಆಧಾರದಮೇಲೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರದವರು ಈ ವಿಷಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಂದುವರಿಯಬೇಕು, ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ನಾನು ಅಪೇಕ್ಷೆಪಡುತ್ತೇನೆ.

*(Sri S. Gopala Gowda rose.)*

Mr. SPEAKER.—There is no time for the Hon'ble Member to speak. I request him to sit down. He knows the trend of the opinion of the House. There are no two opinions in the matter.

Sri S. GOPALA GOWDA (Sagar-Hosanagar).—In the morning I had requested the Hon'ble Speaker to give me a chance.

Mr. SPEAKER.—Even now, I would give. I have personally no objection. But you know the opinion of the House already.

Sri S. GOPALA GOWDA.—But I want to put forth my views on the Report and on the recommendation of the Hon'ble Minister.

Sri H. SIDDAVEERAPPA.—I do not think there will be much difference between what the Hon'ble Member wishes to say and what has already been said by Hon'ble Members.

Sri S. GOPALA GOWDA.—But still there is difference in the angle of approach.

Sri H. SIDDAVEERAPPA.—I would request the Hon'ble Member to close within five minutes.

Sri S. GOPALA GOWDA.—What can I say in five minutes ? ಮೈಸೂರು ದೇಶದ ಇತಿಹಾಸದಲ್ಲಿ ಮತ್ತು ಈ ಅಸೆಂಬ್ಲಿ ಇತಿಹಾಸದಲ್ಲಿ ಇದೊಂದು ದೊಡ್ಡ ಘಟನೆಯೆಂದು ನಾನು ತಿಳಿದುಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದೇನೆ. ಈ ಒಂದು ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಯನ್ನು ನಾವು ಚೆನ್ನಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಥ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡರೆ ಬಹುಶಃ ನಮ್ಮ ದೇಶದ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳ ಬಹುಭಾಗವನ್ನು ಅರ್ಥ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡ ಹಾಗಾಗುತ್ತದೆಂದು ನಾನು ತಿಳಿದುಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದೇನೆ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಈ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಬಹಳ ಪ್ರಾಮುಖ್ಯವಾದುದು. ನೀವು ಈ ದಿನ ಈ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಯ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಅವಸರದಿಂದ ಈ ರೀತಿ ವರ್ತಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವುದರಿಂದ ಹೇಳಬೇಕಾದ್ದನ್ನು ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟವಾಗಿ ಹೇಳಲು ಬಹಳ ಕಷ್ಟವಾಗಿದೆ. ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆಯಿಲ್ಲದೆ ಹೇಳಿದರೆ ಏನೂ ಗೊತ್ತಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ, ಏಕೆ ಹೇಳಿದೆನೆಂದು ನಾನೇ ಒಂದು ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಯನ್ನು ಹಾಕಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಸಂದರ್ಭ ಕೂಡ ಬರುತ್ತದೆ. ಈಗ ಮೈಸೂರು ಸರ್ಕಾರದವರು ನೇಮಿಸಿದ್ದ ಸಮಿತಿಯು ನಮ್ಮ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಗಣಿಗಳ ವಿಷಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಉತ್ತಮವಾದ ಅಂಕಿ ಅಂಶಗಳಿಂದ ಕೂಡಿದ ಒಂದು ವರದಿಯನ್ನು ಸಭೆಗೆ ಒಪ್ಪಿಸಿದೆ ಮತ್ತು ಈ ಸಂಬಂಧದಲ್ಲಿ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸದಸ್ಯರೂ ಕೂಡ ಒಂದು ವರದಿಯನ್ನು ಕೊಟ್ಟು ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು ತಮ್ಮ ಸುದೀರ್ಘವಾದ ಭಾಷಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂಕಿ ಅಂಶಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಕೆಲವು ವಿಷಯಗಳನ್ನು ಸಭೆಯ ಗಮನಕ್ಕೆ ತಂದು ಕಂಪೆನಿಯ ಪೂರ್ಣ ಇತಿಹಾಸವನ್ನು ಮತ್ತು ಈ ದಿವಸ ಯಾವ ರೀತಿ ಇದೆಯೆಂಬುದನ್ನೂ ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಅವರು ದೇಶಕ್ಕೆ ಒಂದು ದೊಡ್ಡ ಉಪಕಾರ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದಾರೆಂದು ಭಾವಿಸಿದ್ದೇನೆ. ಆದರೆ ಈ ದಿನ ಬಹಳ ದುಃಖದಿಂದ ಹೇಳಬೇಕಾದ ಅಂಶವೇನೆಂದರೆ, ಇಂಡಿಯಾ ದೇಶಕ್ಕೆ ಇನ್ನೂ ಶಾಪ ವಿಮೋಚನೆಯಿಲ್ಲವೆಂದು ಕಾಣುತ್ತದೆ. ಸ್ವಾತಂತ್ರ್ಯವನ್ನು ಕಷ್ಟಪಟ್ಟು ಸಂಪಾದನೆ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದೇವೆ. ಆದರೆ ಯಾರಿಗೆ ಆ ಸ್ವಾತಂತ್ರ್ಯದ ಫಲ ದೊರಕಬೇಕಾಗಿತ್ತೋ ಅದು ದೊರಕದಿರುವುದು ನಮ್ಮ ದೇಶದ ದೌರ್ಭಾಗ್ಯ. ಬ್ರಿಟಿಷರು ನಮ್ಮ ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ನೆಲೆಸುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಅವಕಾಶ ಕೊಟ್ಟು ಅವರ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಬಹಳ ಕಾಲ ಇರುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಅವಕಾಶ ಕೊಟ್ಟು ಪುನಃ ಸ್ವಾತಂತ್ರ್ಯ ಬಂದ ಮೇಲೂ ಕೂಡ ಅವರ ಪ್ರಭಾವ ಇನ್ನೂ ಉಳಿಯಲು ಅವಕಾಶ ಮಾಡಿರುವುದು ಸರಿಯಲ್ಲ. ಸ್ವಾತಂತ್ರ್ಯ ಬಂದ ಮೇಲೂ ಇವರ ಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಉತ್ತಮ ಆಗಲು ಇನ್ನೂ ಅವಕಾಶವಾಗಿದೆ. ರಾಜಕೀಯ ಸ್ವಾತಂತ್ರ್ಯ ಬಂದರೂ ಕೂಡ ಇನ್ನೂ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಸ್ವಾತಂತ್ರ್ಯ ಬಂದಿಲ್ಲ. ಇದು ಬರುವುದಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಎಂಟು ಅಮೂಲ್ಯವಾದ ವರ್ಷಗಳನ್ನು ಕಾಂಗ್ರೆಸ್ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಕಳೆದುಕೊಂಡಿದೆ. ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಬಡತನ ಹೆಚ್ಚುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಕಾರಣವಾಗಿದೆಯೇ ಹೊರತು ಇನ್ನೇನೂ ಪ್ರಯೋಜನ ಅಷ್ಟಾಗಿ ಲಭಿಸಿಲ್ಲ. ಈ ದಿವಸ ಪಂಚವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಯೋಜನೆ ವಗೈರೆಮಾಡಿ

ಬಡಜನರ, ತೆರಿಗೆ ಕೊಡುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಯೋಗ್ಯತೆಯಿಲ್ಲದಿರುವ ಜನರ ಮೇಲೆ ತೆರಿಗೆಯನ್ನು ಹಾಕುತ್ತಿರುವುದು ಮುಂದುವರಿಯುತ್ತಿದೆ.

ಇವೊತ್ತು ನಮ್ಮ ದೇಶದ ಬಂಡವಾಳದಲ್ಲಿ ಸುಮಾರು ಶೇಕಡ 60ರಷ್ಟು ಪರದೇಶದ ಬಂಡವಾಳ ಇದೆ. ಈ ಪರದೇಶದ ಬಂಡವಾಳಕ್ಕೆ ಯಾವ ಒಂದು ಸೀಮಾಕ್ಷೇತ್ರವೂ ಇಲ್ಲದೇಹೋಗುವ ಪಕ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ ಏನಾಗುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂದರೆ, ಇಂಡಿಯಾ ದೇಶಕ್ಕೆ ನಷ್ಟವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ, ಲಾಭದೃಷ್ಟಿ ಇರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಇವೊತ್ತು ಲಾಭದೃಷ್ಟಿಯಿಂದ ನಮ್ಮ ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲಸ ಜರುಗುತ್ತಾ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಮತ್ತು ಪರದೇಶಕ್ಕೆ ಈ ಲಾಭಗಳನ್ನು ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಂಡು ಹೋಗುವುದು ನಿಂತಿಲ್ಲ. ಅದನ್ನು ನಿಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಶಕ್ತಿ ನಮ್ಮ ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಇತ್ತು. ಆ ಕಾಲವನ್ನು ಕಳೆದು ಇವೊತ್ತೂ ಕೂಡ ಅದೇ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಮುಂದುವರಿಯುವಂತೆ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದೀರಿ. ಅವೊತ್ತು ನಮ್ಮಲ್ಲಿದ್ದಂಥ Gold dutyಯನ್ನು ರಿಪೀಲ್ ಮಾಡುವಾಗ ಆ ಕಂಪೆನಿಯವರ ಮಾತಿಗೆ ಮರುಳಾಗಿ, ದೇಶದ ಆದಾಯವನ್ನು ಕಳೆದುಕೊಂಡದ್ದೂ ಅಲ್ಲದೆ, ಒಂದು ಅಗ್ರಿಮೆಂಟನ್ನು ಕೂಡ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ಅದರ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಇವೊತ್ತು ಉದ್ಭವವಾಗಿರುವ ಅದರ ನೆರಳಿನಲ್ಲಿ ನರಳಾಡುತ್ತಾ ಇದ್ದೇವೆ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಬೇಕಾಗಿದೆ. ಮತ್ತು ಅವರು ತಮ್ಮ ರಿಪೋರ್ಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಇದು ಅರ್ಬಿಟ್ರೆರಿ ಮೆಷರ್ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಾ ಇದ್ದಾರೆ. ನಾವು ಒಪ್ಪಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವ ಹಾಗೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರದವರಿಗೆ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಹಕ್ಕೂ ಇದೆ. ಅವರು ಕಮಿಟಿಯನ್ನು ರಚನೆ ಮಾಡುವುದು ಸೂಕ್ತವಾಗಿದೆ. ಏಕೆಂದರೆ, ನಮಗೆಲ್ಲಾ ಅಲ್ಲಿ ಏನು ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದೆ ಎಂಬುದು ತಿಳಿಯದೇ ಹೋದರೆ, ದೇಶದ ಸಂಪತ್ತು ಹೇಗಿದೆ, ಯಾರಾರು ಅನುಭವಿಸುತ್ತಾ ಇದ್ದಾರೆ, ಎನ್ನುವುದನ್ನು ತಿಳಿದುಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಅದು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂದರೆ ಅದು ಒಣ ಅಭಾಸದ ಮಾತಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಇವೊತ್ತು ನಾವು ಈ ವಿಷಯಗಳನ್ನೆಲ್ಲಾ ತಿಳಿದುಕೊಂಡಿರುವುದರಿಂದ ನಮಗೆ ಇವೊತ್ತು ಒಂದು ಶಕ್ತಿ ಬಂದಿದೆ. ಒಟ್ಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ "Knowledge is power" ಎಂಬಂತೆ, ನಮಗೆ ಈಗ ಏನು ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದೆ ಎಂಬುದು ಗೊತ್ತಾಗಿರುವುದರಿಂದ, ಮುಂದೆ ಏನು ಹೆಜ್ಜೆ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕೆಂಬುದು ತಿಳಿದಂತಾಗಿದೆ. ಈಗ ಕೆಲವರು ಹೇಳಿರುವ ಹಾಗೆ ಇವೊತ್ತು ನಮಗೆ ಬರೀ ರಾಯಲ್ಟಿ ಬರಬೇಕು ಎಂದಾಗಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ಹಣ ಇನ್ನೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಲ್ಲಬೇಕೆಂದಾಗಲಿ ನಾವು ನಿರೀಕ್ಷಿಸುತ್ತಾ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಇದರಲ್ಲಿ ದೇಶದ ಬಹಳ ದೊಡ್ಡ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಅಡಕವಾಗಿದೆ. ನಿರ್ದಿಷ್ಟವಾದ ನೀತಿಯನ್ನು ಅನುಸರಿಸಬೇಕಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಬರೀ ಮೈಸೂರು ಸರ್ಕಾರದವರೇ ಒಂದು ಸ್ವತಂತ್ರವಾದ ನಿಲುವನ್ನು ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದಕ್ಕಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಗವರ್ನ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಆಫ್ ಇಂಡಿಯಾ ಲೆವಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ತೀರ್ಮಾನವಾಗಬೇಕು. ಇದು ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಅಲ್ಲ, ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಕೂಡ ಅಲ್ಲ, ಅಂತರರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಇದರಲ್ಲಿ ಅಡಗಿದೆ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಈ ವಿಷಯವನ್ನು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರದವರಿಗೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿ ಈ ವಿಷಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಮೈನಿಂಗ್ ಕಂಪೆನಿಗಳಿಂದ ಬರಬೇಕಾದ ಹಣ ಬರಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುಗು ಒಂದೇ ಅಲ್ಲ, ಮೈನಿಂಗ್‌ನ್ನೂ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ತಾನೇ ನಡೆಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಹೋಗುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಏನೇನು ಕೆಲಸಗಳಾಗಬೇಕೋ ಅವುಗಳನ್ನೆಲ್ಲಾ ಕಾನೂನು ರೀತ್ಯಾ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು. ಇಲ್ಲದೇ ಹೋದರೆ ದೇಶದ ಜನತೆಯ ಬಡತನ ಮತ್ತಷ್ಟು ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗುವುದಲ್ಲದೆ ರಾಜಕೀಯದ ಅನೇಕ ಗೊಂದಲಗಳಿಗೂ ಕೂಡ ನಾವು ಗುರಿಯಾಗಬೇಕಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ನಾನು ಮೊದಲೇ ಹೇಳಿದ ಹಾಗೆ ಈ ಬಂಡವಾಳಶಾಹೀ ಪದ್ಧತಿ, ಸಾಮ್ರಾಜ್ಯ ಶಾಹೀ ಪದ್ಧತಿ ನಮ್ಮ ದೇಶವನ್ನು ಬಹಳವಾಗಿ ಶೋಷಣೆ ಮಾಡಿದೆ. ಅಂಥಾ ಶೋಷಣೆ ನಿಲ್ಲಬೇಕಾದರೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಒಂದು ಧೈರ್ಯವಾದ ಹೆಜ್ಜೆಯನ್ನು ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು. ಆ ರೀತಿ ಮಾಡುವಾಗ ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿರತಕ್ಕಂಥ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರಪ್ರೇಮಿಗಳು ಪರದೇಶದವರು ಬಂಡವಾಳ ಹಾಕಿ ನಮ್ಮ ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ರೀತಿ ಶೋಷಣೆ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿರುವುದನ್ನು ಮುಂದುವರಿಸುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಅವಕಾಶ ಕೊಡಬಾರದು, ಇದನ್ನು ಆದಷ್ಟು ಜಾಗ್ರತೆ ಕೊನೆಗಾಣಿಸಿ ನಮ್ಮ ದೇಶದ ಹಿತವನ್ನು ಮತ್ತು ಜನತೆಯ ಹಿತವನ್ನು ರಕ್ಷಿಸಬೇಕು ಮತ್ತು ಏನಾದರೂ ನಿಲುವನ್ನು ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುವಾಗ ಕೂಲಿಗಾರರ ಹಿತವನ್ನು ದೃಷ್ಟಿಯಲ್ಲಿಟ್ಟುಕೊಂಡು ಸರ್ಕಾರದವರು ಒಂದು ತೀರ್ಮಾನ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕೆಂದು ಹೇಳಿ ನನ್ನ ಈ ಎರಡು ಮಾತುಗಳನ್ನು ಮುಗಿಸುತ್ತೇನೆ.

Sri H. SIDDAVEERAPPA.—Sir, I have heard with great attention and I am indeed thankful to the Hon'ble Members for the very kind references they have made about the work of this Committee. I am also thankful to them for the way in which they made references to the part played by this Committee in placing the facts before this House and through this House before the country. It is good to be told by one's own countrymen that we have done some good work. These words are there and I am sure they will stand in good stead when this Government propose to take future course of action in settling this rather difficult problem.

Sir, I am very happy to find that there are no two opinions in this House and that all sides of the House are one in echoing the sentiments expressed in this Report, *viz.*, that the Agreement has not worked in the interests of the State, barring of course the solitary voice of my esteemed friend Sri Sydney A. Thomas. The reasons are obvious. I am not blaming him. He has expressed what possibly or presumably may be the view of the Mining Companies regarding this Report. I therefore feel it would be better if I answer the several points raised by him in his speech. The first point he raised was about the contractual obligation. So far as contractual obligation is concerned, any assurance given by any party must be honoured but it should not be forgotten that it should not be one-way traffic only. There must be mutual observance of the

(SRI H. SIDDAVEERAPPA.)

terms of the contract or the agreement, call it by whatever name you like. Therefore, I have never suggested, nor the Committee has suggested in any one of its recommendations, that there must be expropriation or things of that sort. We all know we are dealing with a foreign concern. What restrains me in expressing my feelings in the matter is largely due to the fact that we are dealing with a foreign company and that there are international matters involved, and I for one would not be a party to any kind of expression which would alienate the feelings of foreigners or any foreign firm in this country. After all we know the high and lofty sentiments expressed by our Prime Minister on the floor of the Parliament so far as foreign companies are concerned. Today in India for various developmental works we do attract a lot of foreign capital. Foreign investment is forthcoming. What has been stated by the Prime Minister has been accepted by this country; any friendly nation may come forward to invest any money in this country provided the object is to help this country, and the object is that the benefit that has to be derived should be mutual. So far as that position is concerned, we follow the advice tendered by the Prime Minister on the floor of the Parliament. But what is required is, while so doing, the companies also must feel that they owe an obligation to the State or the country in which they are operating. They should not lose sight of this very obvious fact as expressed by the Hon'ble Members of this House and through the House by this State. If what is stated on the floor of this House is an expression of the feelings in this country, the Companies would do well to reconsider their attitude and even now it is not too late for them to make proper amends While so saying, I agree with what has been expressed by my friend Sri Vasan that we should not do anything in a hurry ; I do agree with him that whatever steps we have to take should not be guided by the mentality of a Bania as it were, to get a few rupees more. That is not the idea. There are certain basic ideas, *viz.*, the interest of this nation. Government would not be a party to compromise with any of the principles which would vitally affect the interests of this nation. So far as this position is concerned, I am sure, there are no two opinions anywhere. No doubt it is true the Government as the owner of the property do expect some more money. The Government do feel that if mining companies are not able to pay, who would be able to pay ? If they have increased their expenditure, they have themselves to blame for it and I have already stated that they themselves have landed into this unfortunate position by doing things which they ought not to have done. They could have thought, not once, but twice, before they increased their expenditure.

Sri Davey's Award is there. I have just today received a report—rather not a very happy report,—that the labourers numbering about 8,000 have gone on strike. It is because they feel on one side that they have not been squarely dealt with. As I have made it clear, I am not entering into the merits or the demerits of the case as put forward by the labourers. They feel they have been left in the lurch. The owner of the mines, *i.e.*, the Mysore Government feel they have not been fairly dealt with. Who is it that is responsible for this muddled state of affairs ? This unhappy state of affairs is a matter which everyone has now to look into. But the fact is there that all is not well in the working of these mines as you find today. Sri Sydney A. Thomas said : what will be the position if you ask the royalty to be doubled under the present circumstances ? I would say that if the position so arises, there must be sacrifice on all sides. There cannot be sacrifices only on the side of Government. As I have already said, there are three parties: one is the Government, the other is the labour, the real people who produce wealth from the earth, and the third is the Management. You must apportion the sacrifices in such a manner as not to be detrimental to the interests of anybody.

Sir, he gave certain figures. I need not refer to them once again. He argued by stating, that there is hardly anything left in Mysore Mines after making a provision for all these things. Please note, it is very significant, he has made provision for dividends also. In the case of Mysore Mines, he says taking the figures of 1953 what will be left over will be only 0·6 lakh and in the Champion Reef 1·7 lakhs will be left and in Nandydroog Minies 6·1 lakhs. He says if extra royalty as recommended by this Committee is to be recovered, wherefrom they are to get the money? I am sorry, he is not here. This will be my reply to the statement made by Sri Sydney A Thomas. The figures for 1955 as given to Government Directors are placed in juxtaposition with the actuals of 1953 as shown below:—

> 1955 estimate, production estimates for Mysore are: 2·40 lakhs tons; whereas in 1953 they produced only 1·88 lakhs tons.

That means in 1955 they propose to produce 52,000 tons more than what they actually produced in 1953. Likewise in Champion Reef, in 1955 the estimates of production are 1·95 lakhs tons, 1953 actuals 1·39 lakhs tons. The increase will be 0·56 lakh.

In Nandydroog Mines the estimates for 1955 are 2·52 lakhs tons. In 1953 the actuals are 2·17 lakhs tons, increase = 0·35 lakh tons. Therefore proportionate percentage of increase is:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mysore | ... | 27½ per cent. |
| Champion Reefs | ... | 40 per cent. |
| Nandydroog | ... | 16 per cent. |

The income will be as follows:—

According to 1955 estimates, the Mysore Mines will get Rs. 178·86 lakhs. That means they will produce gold worth so much.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Champion Reef | ... | Rs. 168·36 lakhs. |
| Nandydroog | ... | Rs. 181·50 lakhs. |

Whereas the actuals for 1953 would be:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mysore Mines | ... | Rs. 161·30 lakhs. |
| Champion Reefs | ... | Rs. 125·20 lakhs. |
| Nandydroog | ... | Rs. 150·10 lakhs. |

The increase from each of these mines will be: Mysore will produce gold worth Rs. 17.56 lakhs more than they actually produced in 1953. Champion Reefs 43·16 lakhs worth of gold more than they actually produced in 1953 and Nandydroog 31·40 lakhs.

Sir, this amply justifies my remarks made yesterday that their production programme is always based on what they want. In other words, I know how much money they have got in particular years. I know why they have increased the cost of production. I need not enter into the merits of the case. But this amply proves the justification of my statement made yesterday. These people have the capacity of adjusting their production programme in such a manner as to get as much money as they want in a particular year. I am not in any way blaming them for increasing the production tonnage as they have budgeted for 1955. If they can so manage, what is it that prevented them from satisfying the just and legitimate demands of the Mysore Government? I wish my friend Sri Thomas will certainly go into these figures.

I also made another statement yesterday that productiton programme is adjusted according to the price of gold. I substantiate that position a little further. In 1949 the price per fine ounce was Rs. 306 per fine oz. Mysore production was as follows:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mysore Mine | ... | 1,65,510 |
| Champion Reef | ... | 99,240 |
| Nandydroog | ... | 1,29,153 |

Whereas in 1950-51 (for 15 months) when the price was Rs. 303:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mysore Mine produced | .. | 2,01,780 |
| Champion Reef | ... | 1,75,200 |
| Nandydroog Mines | ... | 2,18,556 |

Hon'ble Members will see that there is increase in tonnage and production as there is slight decrease in price structure. In 1951 for nine months when the price was ruling at 297, take again the production. They produced 1,46,300 tons in Mysore Mines. Champion Reef produced 1,30,760 tons and Nandydroog Mines produced 1,57,050

(SRI H. SIDDAVEERAPPA.)

tons. Although these figures are for nine months, take the general average for 1950 and 1951 for all the 24 months.

Mysore Mines produced 1,74.040 tons as against 1,65,510 tons in 1949. Champion Reef produced 1,52,980 tons as against 99,240 tons in 1949. Nandydroog Mines produced 1,87,803 tons as against 1,29,153 tons in 1949.

Likewise, I can give figures for 1952, 1953 and 1954 just to substantiate the position, namely, the production programme has been tagged on to suit the requirements. The following are the figures :—

| *Year* | *Price per oz.* | *Production* *Mysore* | *Champion* | *Nandydroog* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1952 | 237 | 2,07,029 | 1,48,890 | 2,28,082 |
| 1953 | 229 | 1,88,286 | 1,39,200 | 2,16,673 |
| 1954 | 239 | 2,19,300 | 1,77,200 | 2,32,300 |

As I have already said, if royalty is increased, production will have to go up and longevity may be reduced. That may be the argument which may be advanced. The answer will be, by a slight reduction in longevity, the other benefit the Government and the country will get will be more than compensated and for developmental works we do want funds. Therefore, I feel there is not much substance in that kind of contention by the Companies. Sri Thomas said, 'How are you going to improve the uneconomic state of Mysore Mines ?' My own answer would be, if new capital is to be invested, they will have to do it. If capital is wanted in this country, this country will be prepared to subscribe and get the necessary capital for working those mines. More than anything else, I do feel that one day or the other there will have to be a single unitary control and one management for all these mines. That is coming nearer and nearer. My friend, Sri Vasan, in his own way, said : ' What is the change of Mangement here ? A in one room handing over management to A sitting in another room. That is all the difference that we find.'' Therefore we need not get unduly alarmed by the prospects of any of these mines being closed. There is nothing to be worried, nothing that should make us seriously think about it. Sri Thomas said : '' What ! There is overdraft in Banks and we did not declare dividends in one of the mines.'' We have to reply to that point ; it is a very important point. It will have to be noticed that even if there is an overdraft, it is not strictly due to increased cost. It may be for various other reasons. For instance, it may be, as has been attributed, for the purchase of capital store, including stores for stockpiling and for various other reasons. These overdrafts could have been avoided if the Rupee Companies had been given a fairer start with the liquid resources retained in London and expenditure properly controlled. I do not think that it requires any further explanation in this behalf. It is sufficient for me to state that there is not much substance in what has been said by my friend, Sri Thomas.

There are certain points raised, I believe, by Sri Mariappa in the morning. I want to make only a factual correction in this behalf. Sri Mariappa said that when there was an Agreement for a short period between 1935 and 1940, in clause 3, at page 105, it is to be found :

> '' The Lessors hereby covenant with the Lessees that during the residue of the term granted by the existing Lease the Lessors shall not in exercise of their Governmental or other powers levy or impose any special taxation on Kolar Gold.''

I wish here to refer to the earlier paragraph also. This interim agreement is in the interests of the State. This interim agreement was entered into for the period between 1934 and 1940 because the new lease would come into existence in 1940. If one sees, according to this interim agreement, the State got substantial money, about Rs. 53 lakhs. In other words, this interim agreement for a period of

five years was meant to benefit the lessor and not the lessee. What is it that it gave us? It gave these years an additional royalty at two-thirds of the amount. According to this agreement, I will read only that particular clause:

> "On any amount distributable as an interim dividend as and when made payable a payment on account shall be made at rates equivalent to two-thirds of the rates mentioned in the second part of the second Schedule to the form of Lease set out in the Schedule hereto which rates shall (for this purpose) vary in accordance with the variation in the proportion which the total amount of such dividend bears to the total paid-up capital of the Lesses."

Therefore, the analogy is not, in my opinion, very happy.

With regard to the production statements, various figures have been given as to how the working costs have increased. I invite attention of the Hon'ble Members to Statements 12 to 18, pages 86 to 98 of the Report and various other statements which go to show how the cost of production has incresed from the beginning.

Sir, what remains for me now to reply is: What next? That is a problem which the Government will have to examine rather very carefully. We have taken note of the feelings, I should say, the intense feelings of the Hon'ble Members of this House about the future set-up. It is sufficient if I assure this Hon'ble House that the Government will certainly examine every aspect and try to safegurd the interests of this country and any future set-up must be actuated with the best of our intentions in the larger interests of the State. I have already expressed yesterday that whatever may be the future set up, that set-up may not be a matter for agreement but will be a matter for legislation. That is a thing which the Government would certainly examine and look into now, being backed by the unanimous support of this House for which Government should indeed be thankful, We shall certainly not do an act about which afterwards any side or any quarter may say "You ought not to have done this, you ought not to have done that." We bear the interest of the State at heart and take further action. Sir, we alone are not the parties; we are not free agents in respect of this problem. It will be seen from the Constitution that mining is in the Concurrent List. If one were to see the Seventh Schedule, item 54 gives power to the Centre to regulate the mines and mineral development in India, whereas item No. 23 gives certain powers to the State in List No. 3. Therefore this question of what the future would have to be, cannot be unilaterally decided. But I am quite confident that men at the helm of affairs at the Centre will be able to see eye to eye with this Government and the future set-up would have to be looked into in the larger interests of the State.

There is one other point, Sir, which I would like to refer to. Some of the Hon'ble Members doubted yesterday as to what is the good of this discussion. I think the Honble Leader of the Opposition suggested that after watching the discussion, if the House so feels, a resolution may be passed approving the action taken by the Government and asking the Government to take such action as they deem necessary under the circumstances of the case. Sir, I formally move the following resolution for the accepatnce of this House and I am sure the House will be pleased to give its approval to it:—

> "That this House approves of the recommendations of the Committee constituted to examine the working of the agreement of 1949 between the Government and the Kolar Gold Field Mining Companies and urges the Government to take such measures as they may consider necessary in the interest of the State."

I am sure I am echoing the universal opinion of this House as expressed in this resolution. I pray that the House may be pleased to accord its approval

(SRI H. SIDDAVEERAPPA.)

to this resolution. I am thankful to the House for having given me this opportunity.

MR SPEAKER.—Motion moved:

"That this House approves of the recommendations of the Committee constituted to examine the working of the agreemet of 1949 between the Government and the Kolar Gold Field Mining Companies and urges the Government to take such measures as they may consider necessary in the interest of the State."

SRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA (Chief Minister).—Sir, before the resolution is put to vote I would like to say a few words. Sir, I have listened to the debate that has taken place yesterday and also to some extent, to-day. I am very happy to find that there is unanimity in this House when the true interests of the State are involved. It is a great tribute which history will record that in this House when a question of this nature came up for discussion, party and personal differences disappeared and there was one unanimous voice so far as safeguarding the interests of a crore of people in the State, as also the interests of the people in India as a whole, was concerned.

I must pay my tribute, on behalf of this House, to the Committee for the commendable work they have done They have not only examined the history of these mines but also examined the working of the Agreement. They have shown how the interests of the State have suffered many a time at the hands of these foreign concerns. The recommendations that they have made are also very wise ones. This House, I am sure, will record its appreciation and gratitude to the members of the Committee.

Though it is a little personal, I must acknowledge that the Chairman of the Committee, the Minister for Home and Industries, has taken a good deal of pains, has mastered the subject as it were, and has lucidly explained the position to this House. Yesterday, the Hon'ble Member Sri Pattabhiraman paid a tribute to Sir Mirza M. Ismail for having sponsored the Gold Duty Act. In times to come, I am sure, our successors in this House will pay the very same tribute to the Chairman of this Committee. They will pay the very same tribute to the members of this House for having risen to the occasion boldly and courageously.

We in the Government, Sir, propose to take action without any loss of time. I am going to Delhi on the 4th of next month in connection with the National Development Council meeting. I have asked the Industries Minister also to come with me. We will discuss this with the concerned Ministers at Delhi as to what should be the line of action that we should jointly pursue. I assure this House that we will not allow grass to grow under our feet, but take whatever action that is found to be necessary most expeditiously. I thank this House for giving this unanimous support for the stand taken by Govenment.

MR. SPEAKER.—The question is:

"That this House approves of the recommendations of the Committee constituted to examine the working of the agreement of 1949 between the Government and the Kolar Gold Fields Mining Companies and urges the Government to take such measures as they may consider necessary in the interests of the State."

*The motion was unanimously adopted.*

MR. SPEAKER.—Now the House will rise and meet at Twelve of the Clock on Monday.

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*The House adjourned at Fifteen Minutes past Seven of the Clock to meet at Twelve of the Clock on Monday, 18th April 1955.*

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